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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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April 13th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 15 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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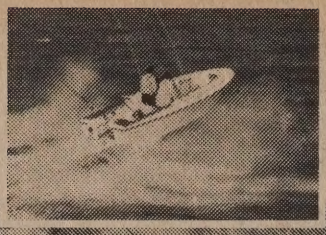

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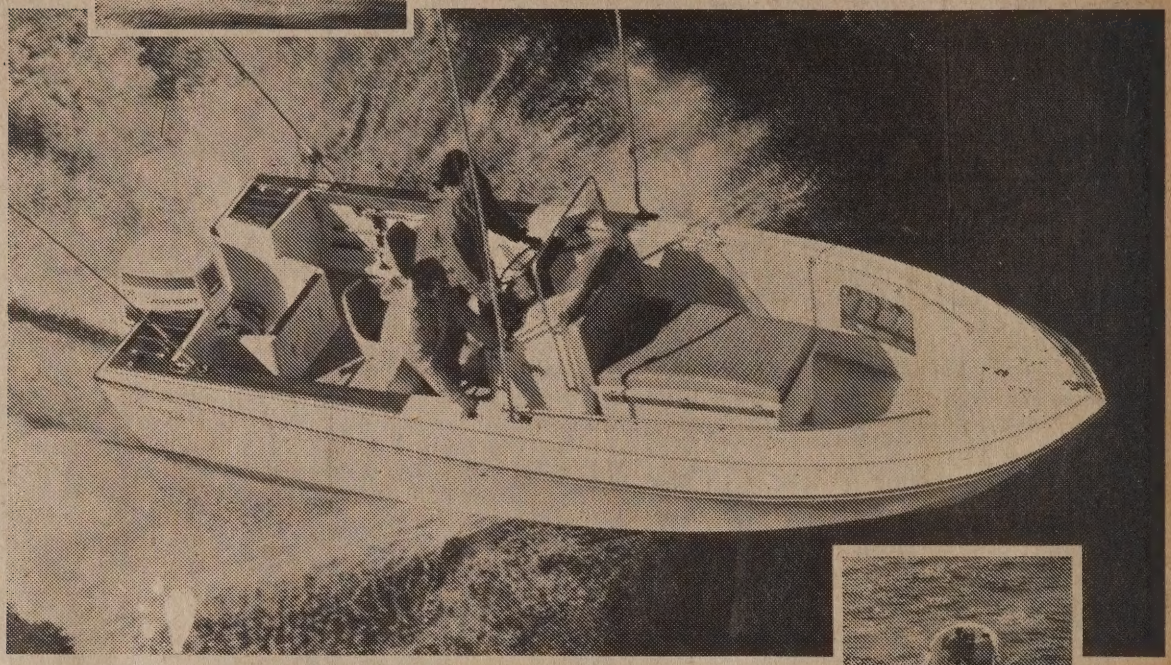

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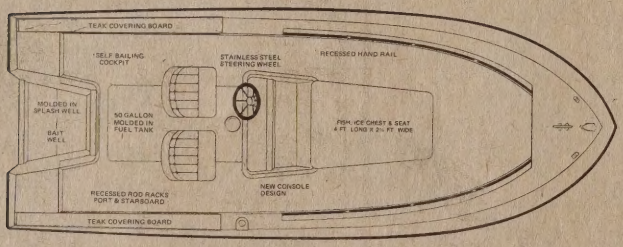
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The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 15 APRIL 13, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
SPRING BLACKS

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Flounder are where you find them—sometime's it's close to shore and sometimes in deep water. See the article *Flounder Means Action,* page 22.

Richard Reina PUBLISHER
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Dr. Wm. A. Muller EDITOR
Al Ristori CONSERVATION EDITOR
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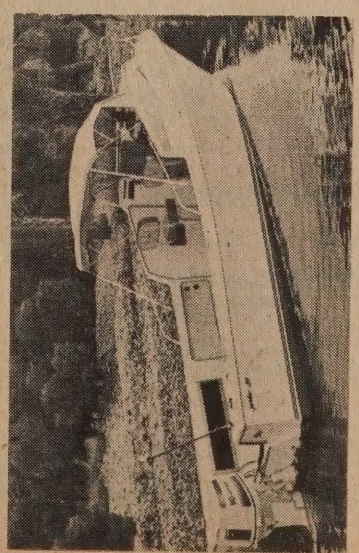

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Pass It On...

EASTERN L.I. BOAT SHOW AND MARINE EXPO

Marine Promotions Limited announces Eastern Long Island's first boat show. It will be held at Southampton College, North Highway, Southampton. Dates are Saturday, April 15 between 10 AM and 9 PM and Sunday, April 16 between 10 AM and 6 PM. For more details, call: 516-728-0922.

FISH UNLIMITED TAXIDERMY TAKES OVER ISLAND MARINE TAXIDERMY

Please be informed that Fish Unlimited Taxidermy, Inc., has assumed the liabilities and assets of Island Marine Taxidermy Studios, div. of Island Taxidermy Studios, Inc.

We will be completing all the fish mounts taken by Island Marine from 1976-1977.

You may or may not know that the latter named company is no longer in business. We have worked out an arrangement that will enable you to secure your mount with minimum effort.

If you have not been billed for your completed fish by Island Marine Taxidermy, Fish Unlimited Taxidermy will bill and arrange for pick-up of your mount in the near future. Those of you who have paid for your mount in full to Island Marine Taxidermy, please be advised that Fish Unlimited Taxidermy will see that you receive your mount at no further cost to you.

Thank you for your patience, and we hope we can be of service to you in the future.

SCHAEFER ANNOUNCES END OF ITS SALTWATER FISHING CONTEST

We have received a news release from Bob Blanks of the Saltwater Fishing Contest informing us that 1977 was the last year of the contest after 31 consecutive and successful years. Over the years, the Schaefer Contest was more than just a contest and through the cooperation of the contest sponsors, personnel, and sport fishermen, much important information about our coastal game fish became available. We regret the passing of the contest and hope that it is only temporary. We are confident that another sponsor can be found who will also recognize the value of the program.

Unfortunately, we have to announce that as of this time, the Long Island Fisherman has no plans to repeat its fishing contest of 1977.

MORICHES INLET STABILIZATION COMMITTEE

Recently, one of our readers, Gary Lobato, called to tell us about the formation of the Moriches Inlet Stabilization Committee. Boatmen and fishermen in this area are concerned because Moriches Inlet is filling in and the sand bars that have formed represent a navigational hazard. They are fearful that if the trend goes uncorrected, eventually the circulation of water into and out of the bay might be drastically affected. The Committee is going to gather support to have the inlet dredged and stabilized. This group has a well thought out plan for developing a solution to the south shore inlet problem. They need your help. Interested citizens can call any of the following people for more information.

Ed Eaton: 516-878-4660.
Bill Gilles: 516-878-2055.
Dick Jones: 516-878-0519.
Joe Maag: 516-878-0519.
Chet Wilcox: 516-878-9640.

COAST GUARD CHANGES IN RADIO BEACONS

Effective with the 1978 boating season, the Coast Guard will make the following changes in radio beacons around Long Island.

Fire Island: reduced from 100 miles to 15 miles.

Montauk: Increase range from 20 miles to 125 miles.

Execution Rock: Reduce from 20 to 15 miles.

Old Field Pt.: Add 20 mile beacon to this station.

Horton Point: Add 20 mile beacon to this station.

CLUB NEWS

SOS TO SPEAK AT GATEWAY

At the April 13 meeting of the Gateway Striper Club, Fred Hodgson of the Save Our Stripers (SOS) organization will lecture on the plight of the Striped Bass. Fred will explain what SOS is trying to accomplish and show slides that show how and why the striped bass is becoming an endangered species. He will also discuss the controversy that surrounds accepting a twenty-six inch minimum fish. A question-and-answer period will follow.

This is an open meeting and all are welcome.

Our membership roles are still open to any and all serious surf fishermen. We are primarily a surf fishing club, with many activities planned for the coming season. One of these activities coming up soon is our intra-club casting tournament. It will be held Saturday, April 15 at Fort Tilden at 9

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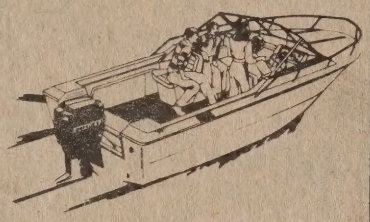
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AM. All spectators welcome.

For those who would like to know more about our club, our next meeting will be held April 13 at 8 PM at Fort Tilden Building 168. For more info, call John Ohle at 235-5336.

BELLMORE ROD & GUN CLUB TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETING

The Bellmore Rod and Gun Club will hold a special Twenty-Sixth Anniversary meeting on Thursday evening, April 13 at 8:30 p.m., at the Bellmore American Legion Hall, Royal St., in Bellmore. Food and beverages will be served and a surprise guest will be present. Bring a friend, as guests are welcome.

Contests & Tournaments

HUDSON ANGLERS SHARK TOURNAMENT

On August 12, 1978, the Hudson Anglers will hold their Sixth Annual Shark Tournament. Just as in our previous tournaments, the aim is to boat only the largest sharks, tagging the balance. Those brought in will be examined by various research groups and certain species will be preserved for examination by oceanographic colleges.

It is expected that donated prizes of fishing and boating equipment will be awarded, and the tournament will be run, as in the past, with cash awards being made to the primary anglers. In the 1977 tournament, cash prizes were awarded as follows:

1. Frank Romano, Freeport, N.Y., 175 lb. tiger—$1,911.60; 2. Henry Urban, New York, N.Y., 130 lb. dusky—$796.50 and 3. Howie Snider, Long Beach, N.Y., 128½ lb. dusky—$477.90.

This year our entry fee is $50 per boat, of which $27 will be awarded as prize money and $23 will be used to defray the cost of printing, postage, two cans chum and related exlpenses. With 150 entries, the prize money would be awarded as follows:

1st Prize: 60% - $2,430.
2nd Prize: 25% - $1.012.50.
3rd Prize: 15% - $607.50.

This year we are limiting the number of entries to 150; so early registration is advised.

Departure August 12 will be from Mako Marina, on Hudson Canal and Freeport River. Returning boats must be within sight of the Mako Marina dock not later than 1830. The rain date is August 13. Information regarding overnight dockage at the Town of Hempstead's Long Creek Marina and any other information will be supplied by Roy Flood at Mako Marina 516-378-7331, or Joe Sangster 516-437-3071.

CHUM LINES

DISAGREES WITH ONORATO

As an avid fisherman and subscriber of the Long Island Fisherman, I have to disagree with Ron Onorato's statement in the March 16, 1978 issue in reference to the "nonsense of crushing mussels and dribbling corn kernels over the side of the boat" because, according to Mr. Onorato, all you are doing is chasing the flounders away from the boat.

In my experiences, I have found that chumming with crushed mussels and kernel corn have produced many flounders. I can make this statement because the majority of flounders that I have caught—whether it be 30 or 50 or 70—were loaded with corn or mussels in their stomachs. **Peter Roberts, Astoria, N.Y.**

MONTAUK FEE FOR PARKING ONLY!

I think you should get your information correct before printing. I almost sent $20 to the Town of East Hampton as a gift.

The reason I almost did give the Town of East Hampton a $20 gift is because of your Pass It On column dated 9/29/77. I would like you to read it because it probably cost a lot of your readers $20.

I telephoned the Town Clerk and was told the $20 fee is for parking **only** and the ramp is still **free**. In my case, I use the ramp and park my car and trailer at West Lake Fishing Lodge, where I stay during weekends. I know a lot of people who do the same and I think you should explain the situation completely before printing such confusing information. **G. Zarcone, New York, N.Y.**

Thanks for the info. I'm sure lots of us will use it to good advantage!

READER TRIES TRI-FLON

Your mention of the Teflon product for reels in your Chum Lines column has prompted me to try and locate some. The Hook, Line and Sinker Tackle Shop in Freeport sells this product and is the local distributor for our area. Before I bought some, they gave me a demonstration that I won't forget. They unpacked a new reel of a well-known manufacturer who makes an excellent reel. After a few turns of the handle, the grease was off the gears and onto the casing. The handle turned easily, but you could feel some resistance. After a small amount was sprayed on the gears and the shaft, the handle turned so easily that you could almost blow on it to get it to spin around. I was told that in a matter of hours it would dry to a Teflon powder that would work into any pits the gears might have and make the reel

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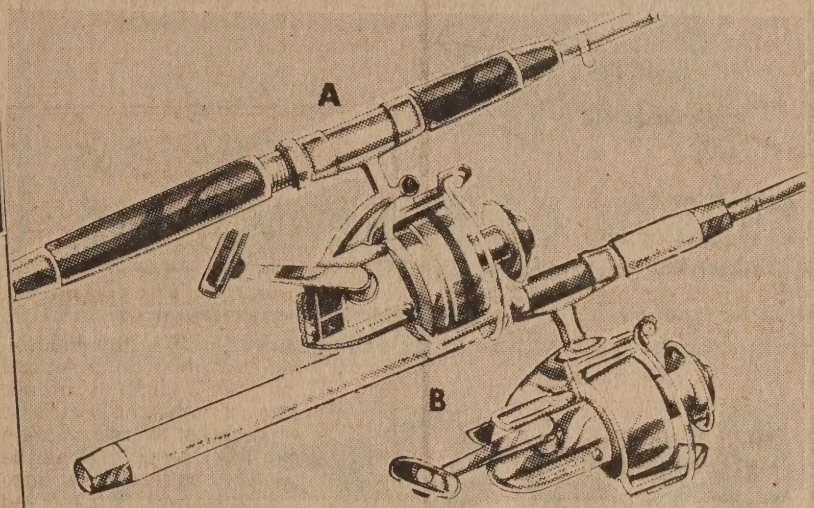

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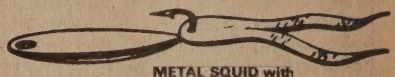
even smoother, if that was possible.

The product is called Tri-Flon and is packaged in a 90 gram spray can. The price was $5.95 plus tax. This might seem very expensive, but it goes a long way since you should use it very sparingly. I think that this is what we have been waiting for and serious fishermen who care for their equipment should not be without it.
Hank Sudak, Lindenhurst, N.Y.



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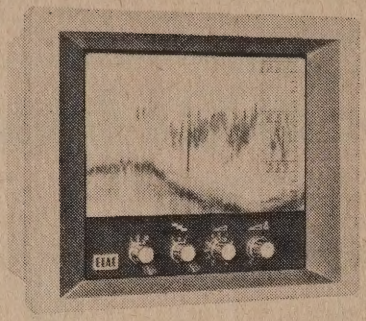

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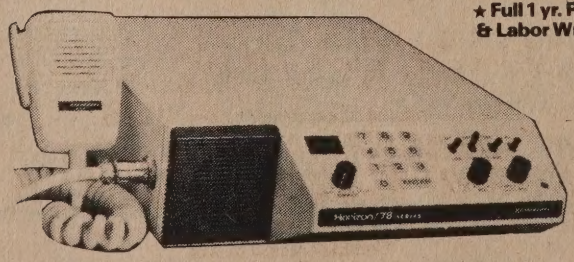

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Striped Bass Debate Grinds On

The suggestions put forth by Maryland Marine Biologist, Ben Florence at the SOS bass meeting have given rise to a great many debates among area sport fishermen. The twenty-six inch proposed limit is the most controversial item and has caused the greatest concern in areas such as western Long Island Sound and New York Harbor, where small stripers are still relatively abundant. While one angler in The Bronx indicated that he would be glad to "bite the bullet" in order to help restore the proper population levels, a fisherman from Greenwich, Connecticut complains that he only catches a few small bass each year and is being asked to throw back his hard-earned meal. He contrasts this to the big catches made by Captain John DeMaio at Montauk and asks why he should suffer rather than those making big catches?

The unsigned Greenwich fisherman has a legitimate point. The idea of the twenty-six inch limit is to ensure that the maximum number of fish from recent poor year classes get a chance to spawn at least once. While these younger fish do not produce as many eggs as the older "cows," some biologists feel they are more viable. Perhaps the proposed twenty-six inch limit could be modified to limit the restriction to sales and provide one striper per day between sixteen and twenty-six inches for personal consumption? In any case, criticism of Captain DeMaio is hardly justified. His letter to LIF indicated his concern for the future of the striped bass fishery and his willingness to accept any restrictions necessary to bring it back. When one considers that John makes the greater part of his living from catching and selling striped bass, that attitude is remarkable. It's one thing to sacrifice a little recreation and a few striped bass dinners—and quite another to give up a large part of your income! If all fishermen had the same progressive attitude, we'd have a lot better chance at restoring the population levels of many species.

There are some hopeful signs on the horizon. Virginia biologists claim that the 1977 year class was the best since 1970. Though it is in no way comparable to that last great spawning year, it does at least provide hope for the future. On the other hand, there is no such report from Maryland, where most of the major spawning rivers are located. The hopeful sign there is that both sport and commercial fishermen, recognizing the seriousness of the problem, have agreed to a number of restrictive measures—with a push from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The Department has closed the spawning grounds of upper Chesapeake Bay to both sport and commercial fishing from March 15-May 15. Even though stripers over fifteen pounds are protected in Maryland, many die in nets set for smaller fish and the new regulation will provide the maximum opportunity for successful spawning. One more positive point: the Manhasset Bay Sportsman's Club has instituted a twenty-six inch limit for club contests!

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Bluefin Tuna Regulations Changed

Some very significant changes have been made in the bluefin tuna regulations for 1978. The total annual quota for giant tuna (over 300 lbs.) has been raised from 2000 to 2250 fish. Anglers south of Cape Cod will have the same 150 fish quota (only about half of it was caught last year), while northern waters will get the 250 fish increase to a total of 2100. Another big change involves the seasons. From June 24 through September 9, only one giant tuna can be retained by a licensed boat each day. This will spread out the season (the quota has been used up by early September every year since quotas were instituted) and allow the maximum number of fishermen a chance at the available fish. The purse seine season has been set back from September 1 to September 9, in order to provide recreational fishermen with a better shot at the fish and to minimize gear conflicts. The purse seine fleet is limited to 180 short tons of giant tuna. Anglers wishing to tag and release giant tuna can obtain the tags and a permit by writing to: Fisheries—Bluefin Tuna, 75 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami, Florida 33149. Include vessel name, official Coast Guard and/or State numbers; names of owner and master, areas planned to be fished, and Fishing Certificate Number. Everyone fishing for giant tuna needs the latter, which can be obtained from Northeast Regional Office, NMFS, 14 Elm St., Gloucester, Mass. 01930.

There is no change in the regulations for school tuna. Anglers will once again be permitted to take four school tuna per day which should be over fourteen pounds and less than 115 pounds; however, an allowance is made of one fish smaller than fourteen pounds and one larger than 115 pounds (but not over 300 pounds) in that daily limit. Though there was initially a great deal of objection to the limitation on smaller tuna, it really hasn't meant much in the last two years, as very few schoolies have been taken north of Maryland. Each of the last two years there has been a significant charge of school tuna off the Virginia and Maryland coasts in June. Anglers had great fishing until the seiners moved in and cleaned up most of what was available. After that there was little for anglers along any part of the coast. The total sport catch of school tuna last year was 4,925—about sixty-two tons. I'm sure most of that was taken south of us in June. According to Russ Cookingham, the New Jersey catch was a mere 557 fish—down from 1,300 in 1976, itself a horribly low figure. Contrast this with the purse seine catch of 39,215 tuna weighing 1,166 tons. That exceeded their allocation of 1000 tons!

The quota program for school tuna was supposed to equitably share the resource between commercial and recreational fishermen. It has quite clearly not had that effect and anglers should request a better deal before the regulations are approved. Get your comments in before April 14 to Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, 14 Elm Street, Gloucester, Mass. 01930. I've suggested that the purse seine season should be delayed until September in order to give anglers a shot at the fish migrating along the coast. If you have other suggestions, don't be shy about making them!

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In a departure from the format of our "Prospect Series" of last year, I will concentrate these columns on what is considered the best fishing possibilities of the month. In the past these articles were limited to just bass, blues and weakfish; they now will include any species available to the surfcaster.

The warming sun of spring is now starting to have an effect on the temperature of our coastal waters. With this increasing warmth, the advance legions of summer fish are moving inshore within the range of the shore-bound angler. Some of these species will stay to entertain us throughout the summer and fall, while others will be with us for a short time only to retreat to cooler waters as the sweltering days of July approach.

Surf Side

with

John Fritz

MAY PROSPECTS

Whatever striped bass were present in our waters before now were limited to the power plant outflows or the early hot spots such as Malibu, Cedar and Little Neck Bay. While these specific locations will continue to produce fish more and more of the shore line will receive its influx of bass as they spread out over the Island. Where the South Shore fishing is usually limited to heavy equipment with sand worms for bait, the North Shore bass can be caught by a variety of means using lighter tackle. Sand worms remain the prime bait for those inclined towards bottom fishing. These worms fished from either a fish finder rig or a surf rig will take bass along most beaches with increased frequency from west to east as the month progresses.

Those of you who can't wait to unlimber the casting arm after a winter's layoff will be able to pick fish using small artificials. Small bucktails, whiptails and tins, such as the Hopkins or Kastmaster, will take fish during the day. At night, in conjunction with bucktails and whiptails, include small swimming plugs in your arsenal. Although these fish are generally schoolies, some very impressive bass have been taken—so be prepared.

Normally at this time of the year, you will not see schools of bass breaking the surface in the pursuit of bait. If surface activity is discovered in your area, put on a small tin for the commotion is probably caused by the schools of mackerel which move into the Sound about May 8.

While we have our minds tuned to Long Island Sound fishing, the second popular species to invade these waters in May is the blackfish. Since the most productive bait for this early spring blackfishing is the sand worm, you therefore have the possibility of catching either blacks or bass at the same time.

Blackfish are normally found in rocky areas which abound on the North Shore. Such places as Bayville, Cedar Beach, Wading River, and most of the north fork offer favorable terrain to catch these hard-fighting fish. Because there is little surf or sweeping currents to contend with, the tackle selected can be light enough to take full advantage of their brawling nature.

In order to reduce the loss of sinkers encountered when bottom fishing among the rocks, the pencil type sinker should be used. The terminal gear can either be the surf rig with your two hooks tied in tandem or the dropper loop rig with single hooks attached to each loop.

Probably the hottest fishing to be found during the month of May is weakfishing. The papers at this time are filled with reports of outstanding catches made on the Heckscher Flats. The State Channel from Captree westward towards Gilgo offers the shorebound angler a chance to get a piece of the action.

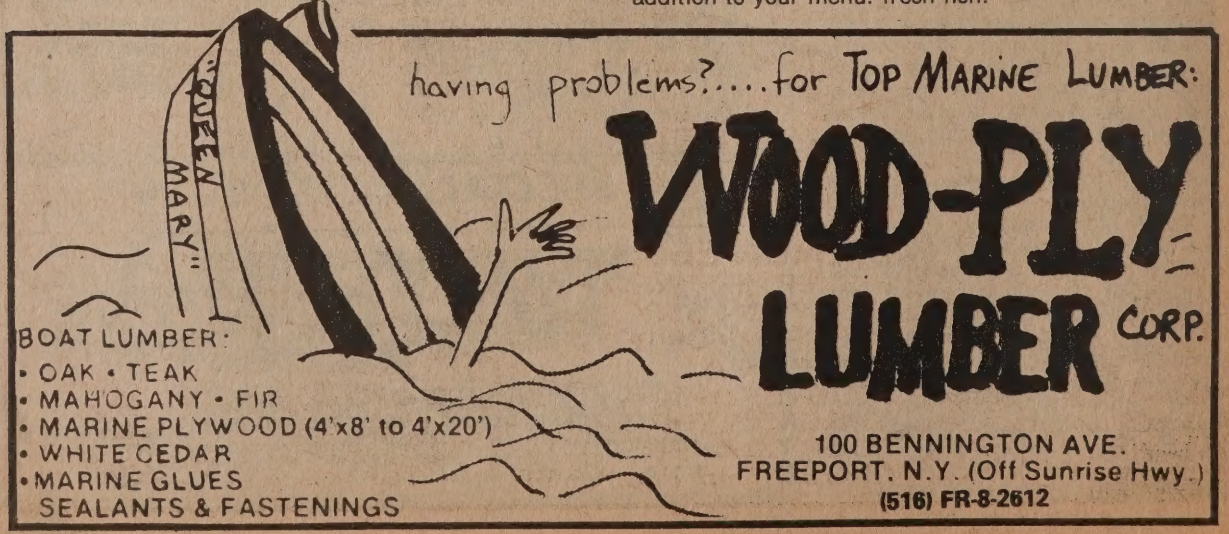
Using one-handed spinning rods from the banks of the State Channel provides great sport and a chance to sharpen your skills on artificials. The number one daylight lures at this time are the various rubber shrimps, with white and pink the most popular colors. Small bucktails tipped with either pork rind or a small sliver of mackerel belly is a good second choice. After the sun sets, the small swimming plugs can be substituted with good results.

On certain nights with no wind or a gentle breeze at your back, those of you capable of handling a fly rod can take fish. Often when the fish are picky, this method will succeed much to the dismay of the spinning tackle enthusiast.

This manner of fishing often requires the angler to wade into the water for some distance. Since the water temperature is still cold, long underwear will add immeasurably to your comfort. On many occasions the fish can be heard splashing on the surface, so noise and lights should be kept at a minimum.

Flounders have been enjoyed by many bay fishermen on the South Shore for a month or so now. With the warming water they start their move towards the inlets seeking the cooler waters offshore. One prime location to intercept these tasty fish is in the cove on the east side of the Sore Thumb. Casting worms, mussels, or clam from the Thumb itself or from the small rock jetties along the road to Oak Beach can result in some fine table fare. One other spot in this general vicinity which has produced good-sized flounder as well as bass is the outside beach immediately west of the Thumb. The tackle employed here will have to be beefed up to contend with the stronger currents.

The fishing season is starting to get into high gear as the long cold winter fades into memory. The glamour species are not to be found in abundance yet, but instead of wishing away your time, take a trip to the beach. You'll have a chance to try out that brand new equipment you received last December and also provide a welcome addition to your menu: fresh fish.

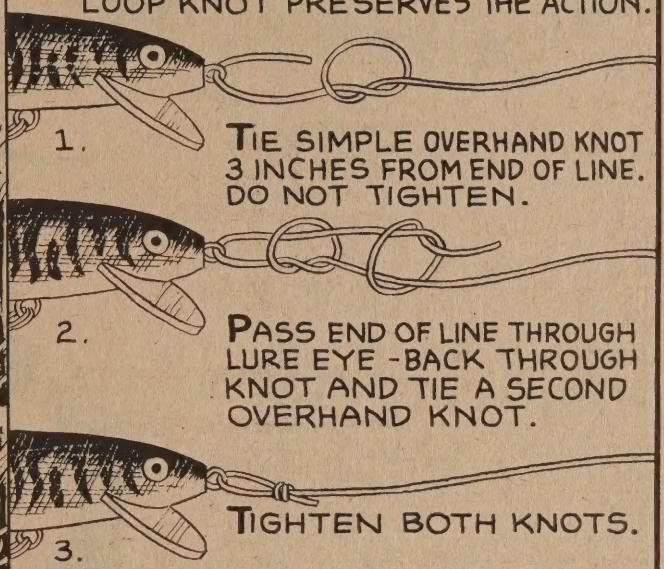


FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

BUTT FORWARD IS THE WAY TO CARRY YOUR ROD AND KEEP IT IN ONE PIECE WHEN GOING THROUGH BRUSH AND WOODS TO YOUR TROUT HOTSPOTS. WITH YOUR ROD TIP FORWARD, YOU COULD STUMBLE, POKE IT INTO A TREE AND BREAK OR DAMAGE IT.

SOME LURES AND PLUGS WORK BETTER TIED DIRECTLY TO THE LINE THAN ATTACHED TO A SNAP. THIS LOOP KNOT PRESERVES THE ACTION.



1. TIE SIMPLE OVERHAND KNOT 3 INCHES FROM END OF LINE. DO NOT TIGHTEN.

2. PASS END OF LINE THROUGH LURE EYE - BACK THROUGH KNOT AND TIE A SECOND OVERHAND KNOT.

3. TIGHTEN BOTH KNOTS.

LIVE BAIT FISH WILL GO DOWN DEEP WITHOUT USING A SINKER BY PUTTING A COUPLE OF SPLIT SHOT B.B.'S IN THE BAIT'S MOUTH AND HOOK BOTH LIPS TO SEAL IN THE SHOT. TOO BIG TO SWALLOW THEY ARE HEAVY ENOUGH TO SINK IT AND ALSO SLOW DOWN ITS MOVEMENT SO THAT IT ENTICES A WAITING FISH.

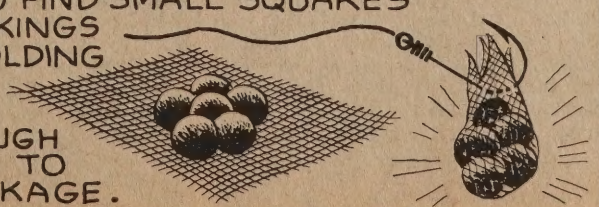
SMELT CAUGHT IN THE SPRING MAKE GOOD FLUKE BAIT LATER IN THE SEASON WHEN OTHER BAIT FISH MAY BE IN SHORT SUPPLY. FREEZE A SUPPLY FOR WHEN THE RUN IS ON. SMELT ARE A FINE BAIT - WHOLE OR IN CHUNKS.

WATER TEMPERATURE IS A GOOD RULE FOR TROUT FISHING. 55° TO 60° F. FISH ON BOTTOM. 60° TO 65° TRY MIDWAY BETWEEN TOP AND BOTTOM. OVER 65° INDICATES SURFACE LURES.

ARCTIC GRAYLING...

...ONCE PLENTIFUL IN MONTANA & MICHIGAN

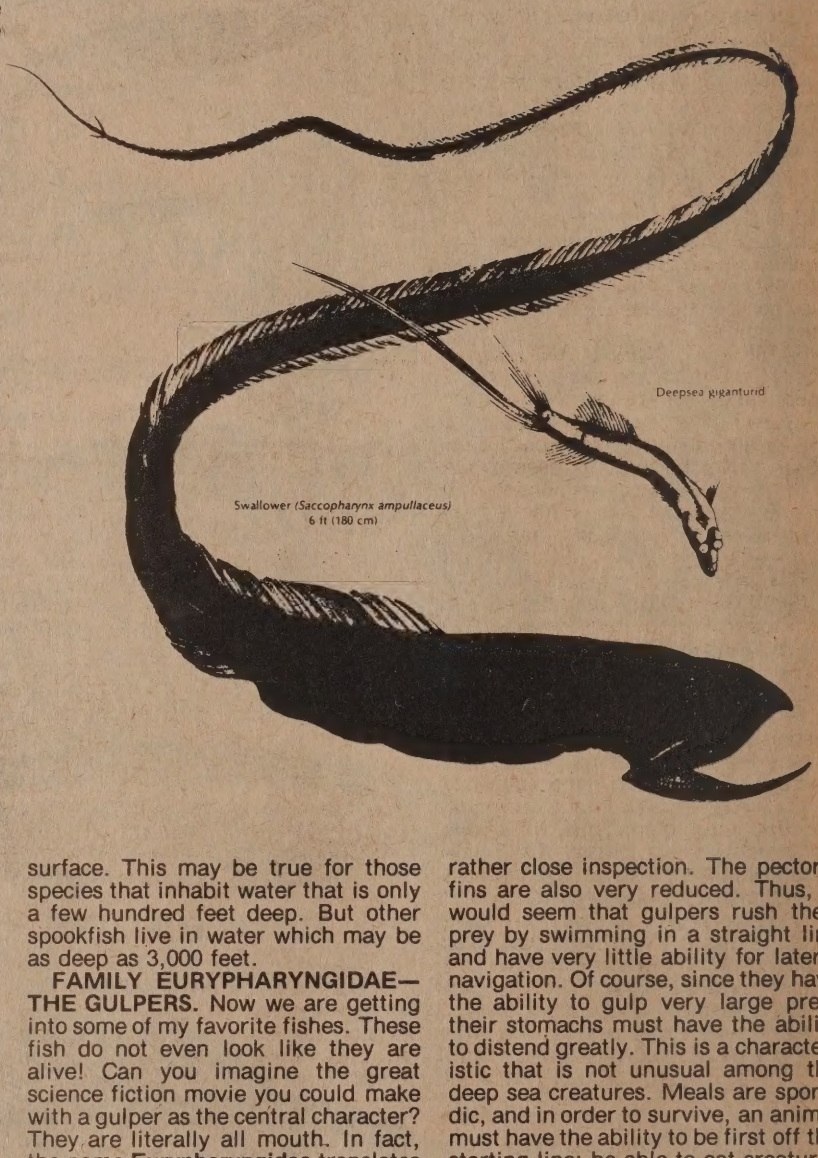
SALMON EGGS ARE USED FOR BAIT BY TROUT FISHERMEN WHO FIND SMALL SQUARES OF NYLON STOCKINGS PERFECT FOR HOLDING EGGS IN A CLUSTER. HOOK THREADS THROUGH FOUR CORNERS TO CLOSE THE PACKAGE.



FISH TALK MONSTERS OF THE DEEP

with Dr. William A. Muller ★ *Part Three* ★

DIFFERENT, BUT ALSO THE SAME. We have seen that the miniature deep sea monsters have many physical characteristics in common. These include large eyes, ornamental fins and extensions, luminous organs on the body, fins and fleshy tentrils, and an average size of about four to eight inches. Still, each group has unique features that have helped them to survive in a dark world that is both harsh to its inhabitants and bleak in productivity. The parasitic male in angler fishes, the wing-like pectoral fins of the giganturids, and the thick, armor-like scales of the viperfishes represent some of these strange adaptations. This week we will take our final look at this strange unproductive world. In many ways, the deep sea is like the deserts of our Continents; they are both unproductive and they both discourage the entry of man. On land, it is the heat and arid climate; while in the deep sea, it is the absence of light and the constant cold and pressure of the aphotic zone.



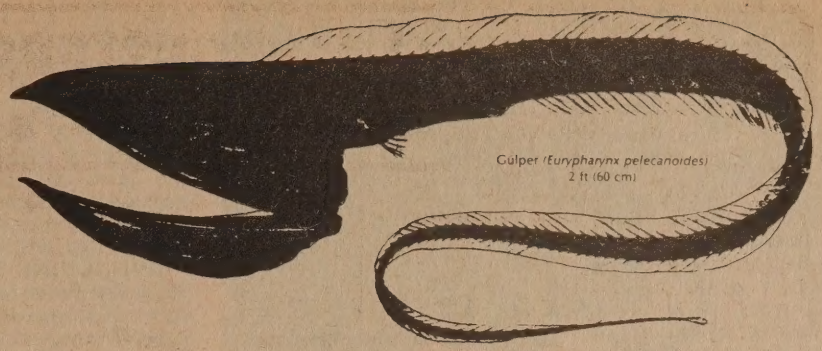
FAMILY BATHYLAGIDAE—DEEP SEA SMELTS. Most of the species of this group live in water that is deeper than six hundred feet. Once again, these are small fish and they may average about six inches in length. The deep sea smelts really cannot qualify as monsters of the deep since their appearance is rather normal. The body is streamlined and most of the fins are in approximately the correct position. Their mouths are big and the eyes are disproportionately large. Most of the deep sea smelts are dull in color on the dorsal surface, with brown, black, and grey predominating. However, the sides of the fish may be silvery and this coloration persists into the ventral surface. Nonetheless, we have studied the deep sea smelts because they are an important part of the ecology of the zone and may serve as an important forage fish for some of the monsters that truly qualify as such.

FAMILY OPISTHOPROCTIDAE—SPOOKFISH. Speaking of qualifying monsters, the spookfish has to rate as a real spooky character! Oops, sorry about that. They are six-inch, brown, pencil-shaped fish with a large head stuck onto the forward end. With the exception of the head, the rest of the animal is rather conventional—but the head is grotesque. The most outlandish characteristic of these fish are their eyes. The eyes are fixed to barrel-like cylinders on the top of the head, and for this reason, they are commonly called barrel-eye fish. The eyes can only look up, which may be an adaptation for finding food which may be visible against a faintly lit surface. This may be true for those species that inhabit water that is only a few hundred feet deep. But other spookfish live in water which may be as deep as 3,000 feet.

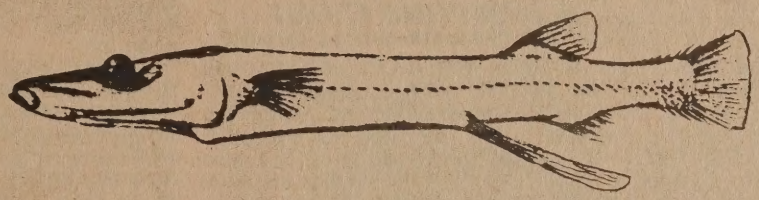
FAMILY EURYPHARYNGIDAE—THE GULPERS. Now we are getting into some of my favorite fishes. These fish do not even look like they are alive! Can you imagine the great science fiction movie you could make with a gulper as the central character? They are literally all mouth. In fact, the name **Eurypharyngidae** translates to Well Throat—I think that's Deep Throat's cousin. The lower jaw is only loosely joined to the upper jaw and this adaptation allows the gulpers to swallow prey which may be many times larger than they are. The rest of the body is thin and tapered. Both the dorsal fin and the anal fin extend from the head all the way to the end of the tail. There is a red luminous body at the tip of the tail which apparently functions as a prey attractor. The gulpers live at depths from 5,000 to 9,000 feet! That's no misprint folks, you read it correctly. The gulpers, however, lack the long teeth typical of so many other deep sea monsters and their eyes are very reduced. In fact, the eyes are barely visible even upon rather close inspection. The pectoral fins are also very reduced. Thus, it would seem that gulpers rush their prey by swimming in a straight line and have very little ability for lateral navigation. Of course, since they have the ability to gulp very large prey, their stomachs must have the ability to distend greatly. This is a characteristic that is not unusual among the deep sea creatures. Meals are sporadic, and in order to survive, an animal must have the ability to be first off the starting line; be able to eat creatures of various sizes, and then live off that meal for a long period of time before the next encounter with a living thing in the abyss! The gulpers are large as deep sea monsters go, and some may reach two feet in length. This is not very large by inshore standards, but is remarkable for the deep. Surprisingly, one species does not eat large prey, but rather it feeds upon smaller invertebrates.

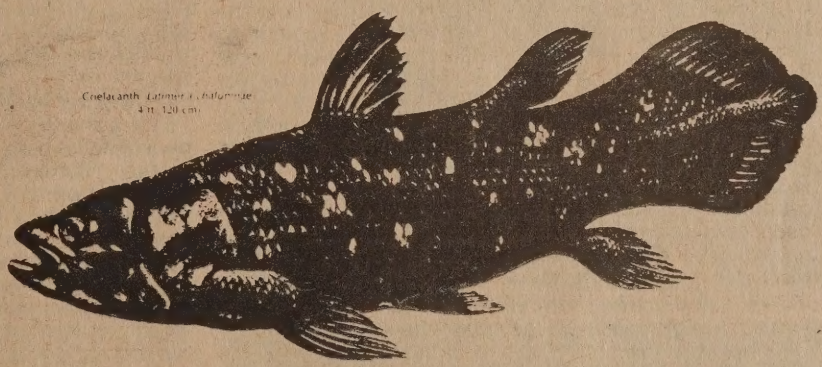
FAMILY SACCOPHARYNGIDAE—THE SWALLOWERS. I'll bet that by now few of you still think that I'm for real. I'll bet that many of you are convinced that I'm either pulling your leg or that I have lost all my marbles. Well, for "ye of little faith," I **think** that I'm still among the world

of the sane. In any event, let me assure you that there are such critters as gulpers and swallowers. There really isn't too much difference between the two groups. The most important difference is that the swallowers have the pointed needle-like teeth that are so common to the deep sea monster tribe, while the gulpers do not. One species—the black swallower—is only four or five inches long, yet it has been known to eat prey as large as ten or eleven inches. The swallowers are also larger than most of the monsters we have discussed. Although the family consists of relatively few species, they range in size from only a few inches to six feet in length. Most of the body consists of a long, thin pointed tail and like the gulpers, there is a red light at the very tip of the tail. The swallowers are believed to use their whip-like tails to hold their prey while they position themselves for ingesting their victims.



Spookfish (*Macropinna microstoma*)
6½ in (17 cm)





FAMILY COELACANTHIDAE. There is one more monster of the deep that deserves some mention; not because it lives in water as deep as five or six thousand feet—because it doesn't. Not because it resembles a nightmare, but measures only an inch or two—because that is not an apt description. Not because it has large, strange eyes, ornamental fins, or luminous body organs—because it does not. There are other reasons and perhaps most important among these is the fact that it is a missing link. More than three hundred million years ago these fish are believed to have been a dominant part of the inshore ocean ecosystem. They are called the lobed finned fishes and somewhere, somehow, the ancestors of the modern coelacanth evolved into the first amphibian. Thus, this group of fishes can be credited with establishing a chain of evolutionary events that has culminated in man! The coelacanths of today have changed very little from those that lived millions of years ago when most species became extinct! Why did they become extinct? The fishes evolved rapidly during that period of earth's history called the Devonian, more than three hundred million years ago. During that period the modern fishes evolved. Modern teleost fishes have many competitive advantages over earlier groups and thus, they gradually replaced them. Most of the primitive fishes could not compete and they could not adapt to new habitats, so they became extinct. The coelacanth was an exception. This fish had the ability to adapt to the deep water habitats in spite of the fact that it originally evolved in the shallow water. Thus, it has survived in water that ranges in depth from about 600 to 1400 feet where teleost fish are not common, hence competition is much reduced. The first specimen was taken off the Coast of South Africa in the 1930s and created a tremendous amount of excitement in the scientific community. Here was a true missing link; a creature that was thought to be extinct for millions of years that actually survives in the modern world! The coelacanths are large fish and may be four or five feet long and weigh up to about 150 or so pounds. Their heads are large, with very impressive jaws. The body is covered with very large thick scales and the fins are set atop fleshy extensions; hence the name lobed-finned fishes. Since most people are not used to seeing this type of fin arrangement, the fish may be quite frightening when viewed up close for the first time. I'll never forget the first coelacanth that I saw at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. It was being readied for dissection and it was just the right medicine to scare the socks off of a certain freshman biology student!

WHOSE ON FIRST AND WHAT'S ON SECOND? The old Abbott and Costello routine may be very appropriate when describing the water world of the deep ocean. On the inshore scene, big fishes eat little fishes and bigger fishes eat big fishes. Not so in deep! At 5,000 feet, it may be more important to consider who sees who first or who is ambushing who? Since most of the fish of the depths have evolved loosely-hinged large jaws, they are capable of consuming very large prey. So, the fish that strikes first, gets a grip on the head of its opponent, is probably going to eat well and survive. We actually know very little about the deep since it is so hard to study these habitats, but with the ever-expanding technologies and a renaissance of interest in marine science, perhaps the day will come in the not-too-distant future when we will have mostly answers and perhaps not fewer questions, but more complex questions about the monsters of the deep.

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

★ HOOKING FISH ★

—PART TWO—

GETTING IT OUT

Last week, we discussed the common disease among fishermen known as **Eddieism**, which is the inability of an angler to hook and land a fish with consistency. But even for those who know the correct way to set the hook properly on a fish, once they have accomplished this feat a new problem presents itself: how to get the darn hook **out** of the fish. Unfortunately, the same engineering design that makes the fishhook so effective in getting it **into** the fish, also makes it difficult to get the hook **out** of a fish—unless you know the correct techniques to do so. The right way to go about removing a hook will depend on the type of fish you have caught, so this isn't a topic that can be dismissed with a rule-of-thumb or a few short paragraphs. First, let's look at some of the problems to be confronted when removing a hook, followed by the correct techniques to use for various species.

UNHOOKING PROBLEM NO. 1: Avoiding Becoming the Hookee. If you aren't extremely careful while trying to remove a hook from a fish, you may well find yourself in the hospital with "hookeeismitis," referred to by emergency room doctors and nurses the world over as "another jerk that hooked himself." Because of the protective mucous coating a fish has (also known as slime), combined with the fact that they are alive and struggling, makes it relatively easy to slip and end up on the wrong end of a hook as a result. To overcome this problem and cut down on the number of your visits to the emergency room, try holding the fish with a dry rag during the unhooking process. The rag may also be used to wipe your hands when you are done, or may be put into service as a tourniquet if you blow it. Certain species require a little persuasion to keep them quiet during the process. A small baseball bat or billy club is one of the best "persuaders" you can use; invest in one.

UNHOOKING PROBLEM NO. 2: Where the Hell Do You Hold 'Em?. This is the most common problem encountered by beginners. There are actually three categories of fish to contend with: the first group is composed of fish like the fluke, flounder and eel that have smooth, slimy bodies that make it difficult to grasp them securely—in other words, they don't have a "handle" to grab them by. The second group is made up of fish that have a lot of spiny fins, like the sea robin, bergall and porgy. Carelessness with these fish can mean a nice puncture wound from a sharp spine which can be painful if it becomes infected. The third group has the toothy fish: bluefish, sharks and bluefish. The problem here is obvious: how to get your hook back without trading in a finger for it.

UNHOOKING PROBLEM NO. 3: Getting The Hook Out Quickly. While you should never rush the unhooking process and take a chance on injuring yourself, don't get ridiculous about the whole thing. The fact is you aren't going to catch many fish if you spend an inordinate amount of time trying to get your hook back from a deeply hooked fish. I've fished with quite a few "great" fishermen, but I have still yet to meet one that could catch a fish while his line was out of the water. So be careful, but get that line back in the water as soon as possible. If the fish are biting in a blitz, which is not unusual with some species, cut off the hook and re-rig. Another solution is to keep a second rod rigged up and baited, ready to go. If you gut hook a fish, use the other rod as a back-up. When the blitz is over you can unhook the fish on the first rod.

UNHOOKING PROBLEM NO. 4: How Do I Get Size 6 Fingers Into a Size 5 Mouth? You don't. Anyone who tries to get his fingers down the mouth of a half-pound flounder has got more problems than I can cover in an article. (Besides, this is a fishing magazine—not a medical journal.)

The solution to problem number four is the use of a hook disgorder. You can purchase an excellent mechanical hook disgorger in virtually any bait and tackle shop for only a few bucks, or you can make your own. Just take a wooden dowel about a foot long and cut or carve a "V" notch in one end. The notch is placed on the bend of the hook in the fish's mouth, then pressure is applied so that the hook is pushed out backwards. The mechanical disgorder is used by grasping the bend of the hook with the jaws and removing the hook with a twisting, backwards movement. If you keep the disgorder on a boat, occasionally give it a shot of WD-40 or oil—I haven't found one yet that didn't rust when exposed to saltwater.

UNHOOKING PROBLEM NO. 5: How Do I Get the Hook Out When I Am The Hookee? Inevitably, the day will come when you will blow it and end up with a hook in some part of your anatomy. What should you do? Get to a doctor, dummy, and let him take it out. Damage can be increased if you don't have a medical background, so don't take a chance. But, if conditions dictate that the hook **must** be removed, I recommend using the method of the late, great Captain Carl Forsberg: "All you need is a wire cutter, some iodine and a bottle of good Scotch. Push the hook so that the point and barb come out of the skin. Then cut off the barb with the pliers, so that the hook can be backed out the same way it came in without doing any more damage. Give the Scotch to the Captain for doing a good job."

One method you should never use to take a hook out is to grab the leader (snell) and pull hard in the opposite direction. Simply because if the fish isn't lip hooked or lightly hooked on the skin in its mouth, all you will do is sink the hook deeper into the flesh and possibly bend the hook in the process. If you do manage to take the bend out of the hook, changing the gap, don't just bend the hook back into a similar shape and go on fishing with it: cut it off the rig and replace it with a new one. Once bent, the hook has been irreparably weakened and you don't want to take the risk of it straightening out or even breaking on a large fish.

Another handy tool to have on hand for de-hooking a fish is a sharply pointed knife. If the point of the hook has penetrated a bony portion of the fish, use the point of the knife to "buttonhole" and enlarge the hole where the hook protrudes so that the hook can be backed out of it. As already noted, a billy club should be used on fish with teeth or those that are particularly energetic, to "persuade" them to lie still during the de-hooking process. But be careful who you give the clubbing chores to: on several occasions I have watched, with heart in my throat, as another fisherman has missed the fish and did a number on the deck of the boat. (In other words, don't let anyone suffering from "Eddieism" club a fish under any circumstances.)

The secret is all in how you hold 'em. Each fish has different physical characteristics (fins, spines, teeth, slime) that dictate how they must be held during the unhooking process to keep injuries to the angler at a minimum. Listed below are some local species and how they should be held. Instructions are given under the assumption that the angler is right-handed. If you're a lefty, follow the same directions while unhooking your fish in a mirror. If you aren't sure what you are, see the answer to problem number four and let someone else unhook your fish for you.

Fluke: A billy club job is a must before attempting to unhook any fluke over two pounds. Because of the nasty habit fluke have of playing "possum," lying quietly on the deck, then suddenly going berzerk when they are touched, more anglers end up becoming the hookee while unhooking a fluke than with any other species. Hit a fluke a good clout with the billy club just behind the eyes. You'll know that you've hit the right spot and have persuaded him to cooperate if his body suddenly bends in half and then his tail slowly quivers to the deck. Hold the fish by inserting your thumb and index finger under the gill plates and **squeeze**. (Just in case he suddenly comes to life.) Proceed to remove the hook with your fingers, providing this doesn't require you to put them into the fish's mouth. In case you never noticed, a big fluke has teeth second

only to a bluefish. If the hook is too deep to reach, use a hook disgorger as described.

Another effective way of removing the hook from a fluke that is deeply hooked is the "back-door method." Spread the fingers you have in the fluke's gills apart so that you can see the inside of the throat and mouth. Using the fingers of your other hand, free the hook so that it can be pulled out through the mouth. Once the hook has been freed, don't just try and jerk it out or you'll more than likely just re-embed the hook again.

Blackfish and Bergalls. Both have all the undesirable physical characteristics for unhooking fish: small mouths, slimy bodies, big teeth, spiny fins and tough mouths. Unless the fish is large, you'll have trouble using a disgorger, so try the back-door method. Hold either by using fingers in the gills. (I'm told that the mate on the Montauk charterboat **Devilfish**, "Porky," has invented a method of unhooking a blackfish quickly using only a short piece of monofilament line. Hopefully, he will reveal his secret for a future article.)

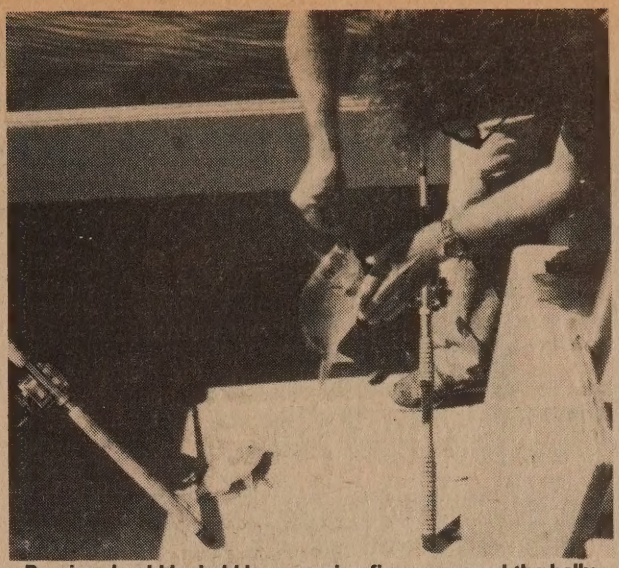
Porgies. Not much in the slime department, but their spiny fins more than make up for it. Hold a porgy by resting his body in the palm of your hand, thumb on one side of the body and four fingers on the other. This will provide you with a good grip on the fish, while at the same time avoiding the spiny dorsal fin during the unhooking process.

Sea Robins. On more than one occasion, I have been accused of receiving a distinct, perverse thrill out of watching a novice angler trying to figure out how to pick up a sea robin so that the hook could be removed. (Guilty!) The head and bony gill plates are covered with sharp horns; the dorsal fin is spiny and there just isn't anyplace to grab them on their bodies. The trick here is simple: just put your thumb in his mouth and grasp him under the chin with your index finger. Don't worry about being bitten; a sea robin's sole source of food comes from the bait that fishermen shake off the hook trying to set the hook on them. After leeching off of fishermen in this way for thousands of years, the evolutionary process has given the sea robin tiny teeth.

Bluefish. The only bluefish I ever trust are those that have been filleted. **Never** try to unhook a big bluefish without first doing a Gene Kelly on his face with the billy club. Once stunned thusly, proceed to unhook the fish while it it lying on the deck. Don't try holding it—why contend with the weight? It's important to hold the fish down so that he can't suddenly lunge forward and grab one of the fingers you are using to remove the hook. The best and safest way that I have found to hold a blue is to put my thumb and index finger in their eye-sockets. Whenever possible, use a hook disgorger. It saves wear and tear on tendons and ligaments. Needless to say, never let your fingers or vital parts get close to the sharp teeth and powerful jaws. Another "don't" for unhooking bluefish is holding them by the gills—the inside of the gill plates and gills themselves are very coarse and will quickly wear the skin off your thumb when the fish tries to close them while you are trying to take the hook out. Bluefish by nature are a schooling fish and feed in blitzes, so you can lose much productive fishing time if you take too long getting that hook out. Rather than rush the process and risk losing something, your best bet is to cut the wire-leader hook or treble-hook adorned plug off and re-rig. It's not uncommon for me to have three or four big blues in the fish box with the diamond jigs they hit still in their mouths.

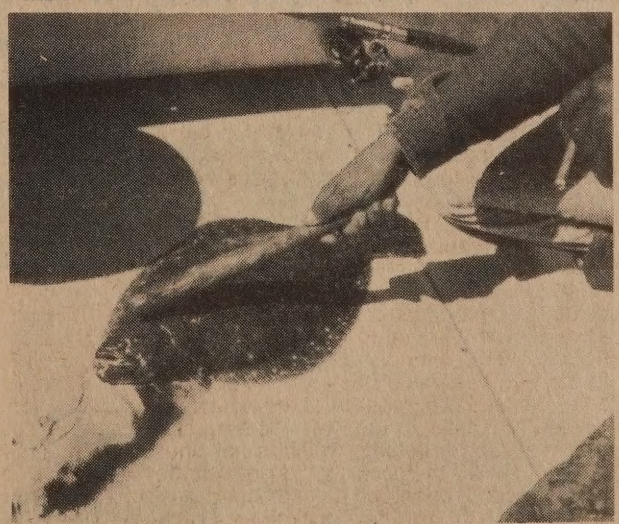
Dogfish. The best method for unhooking a dogfish is while he is still in the water: just reach over the gunwale and cut the line, saving yourself a lot of heartache and aggravation for the price of a ten cent hook. Dogfish brought into a boat will do the following: tangle up everyone's rigs, anchor lines, etc., while painting the inside of the cockpit a vivid red. If you want to keep the doggies—which I understand are good eating—beat 'em up quickly before they can do much damage. Leave them on the deck, pressing them down with your hand behind their head.

Eels. The easiest way to unhook an eel is not to let him get on your line in the first place. I've tried everything, but still haven't found a way of keeping the eel from transferring his slimy, mucous covering to my arm. But that's fishing: win a few, lose a few, and get even by using them for bait.



Porgies should be held by wrapping fingers around the belly.

Mike "the G" watches Frank show how *not* to hold a bluefish.



Fluke should always be given a billy club job before unhooking.

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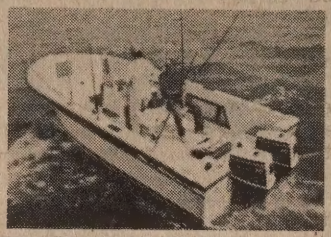

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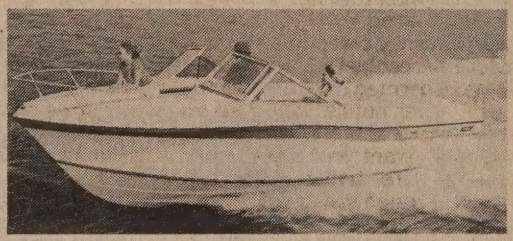

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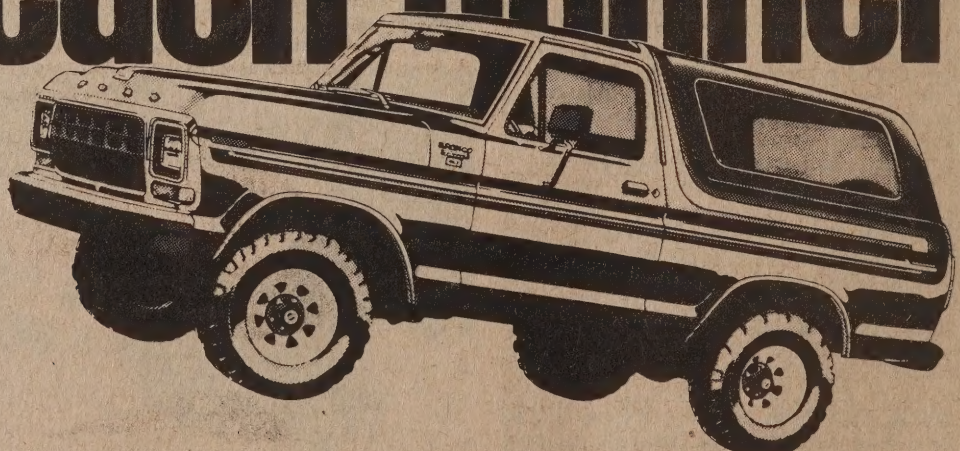

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with Matt Ahern

SEA ROBINS AS FLUKE BAIT

Don't let that title mislead you. It's only the middle of April and there's still plenty of flounder action ahead of us. But as fluke will be on tap in a few weeks, I wanted to throw a little reminder your way. Have you been giving these extremely popular fish a little thought?

As a dedicated fluke fisherman of long standing, I've got to admit to doing a little thinking about the matter and to making preparations these past few weeks. I'm one guy who likes to have everything in readiness well in advance. No scrambling around at the last minute for me. In this regard, there's a fresh supply of fluke hooks and leaders already tucked away in my tackle bag, and my strategies, I hope, are well planned. In fact, I know exactly where I'm going to try for those early fish. The only necessary item lacking is fresh bait—but that doesn't bother me in the least. I've got the answer to that.

There's really no problem. The month of May will be here shortly and with it will come enormous schools of sea robins forecasting the approach of multitudes of fluke just short days behind. Bait-wise, you can bet I have designs on those sea robins; for if there is any better strip bait for inshore fluke fishing, I don't know what it is. Now is the time fluke fishermen should be making plans to lay in a supply, not when the fish have already arrived and everybody and his brother is flitting around seeking some substitute which may be in short supply or even nonexistent.

Don't forget, too, that during the height of the season, there is always the possibility of occasional shortages of other fluke baits such as live killies, local squid, and fluke-sized spearing and sand eels. This doesn't happen often, but when it does, it is just too bad for those fishermen who haven't looked that far ahead. Luckily there's no excuse for smart fluke fishermen to be without a plentiful supply of bait when sea robins are so readily available. And certainly those fishermen who have access to a home freezer have it made. Never again need they concern themselves over the possible lack of fluke bait.

I don't know how well acquainted you are with sea robins, but at the beginning of the season, the supply seems endless. Fishermen catch them whether they wish to or not, and few anglers consider them fit for table fare. It is the far-thinking fisherman who takes advantage of this windfall and makes preparations to put them to his use.

Some anglers consider fishing for sea robins as not only a waste of time, but a prime nuisance. If these are your thoughts on the matter, too, there's still no need to go without your share of bait. Just take time out and visit any area noted for its good shore fishing and make your wants known to any of the many sinker bouncers you'll find in these places. You will promptly be swamped with all the sea robins you could possibly want. Often you can pick up a supply in minutes simply by selecting what you need from those that have been left behind.

Preparation is simplicity itself. All you need are an old pair of gloves to protect your hands from the robin's sharp spines and an ordinary utility knife. If you haven't one of these kicking around, any hardware store can supply. I never depend on my pocket knife for this bait preparation, as the blade is too short and light to do a satisfactory job.

It is important not to scale the robins. Leaving the scales on not only makes the strip difficult for short-biting fluke to remove, but it also adds to its suppleness—which is an important factor when using this bait.

To make fish strips, grasp the sea robin firmly by the head using your gloved hand and make a cut to the backbone slightly aft of the vent. Conservative fishermen don't like this method, claiming it is too wasteful. They make their initial cut just behind the head, skirting the spines. They have a point, of course, but I find this gives the bait a thick, chunky appearance instead of that natural streamlined shape the tail provides and that proves so irresistible to fluke. When the blade touches the backbone, don't cut through. Turn the knife almost flat and slice along the bone to the end of the tail and remove the strip. Repeat on the other side. The whole complete operation for each fish takes but seconds once you get the hang of it.

You now have two pieces of what many veteran sinker bouncers consider to be the best fish bait known for inshore fluke hunting. I certainly agree with them on that, for in my opinion only a lively two-inch killie will outfish a strip of sea robin in these places.

The amount to put aside is determined by how often you plan to fish, but I place about two dozen strips in a container and this is usually enough for one day's fishing. Many of the strips become dirty from drifting over mud bottoms and when they do, I change them. Fluke will not touch a bait loaded with sediment or other debris. If you are lucky, you may catch three or four fluke on one piece of bait before it becomes too ragged for continued use.

Some fishermen question the use of frozen fish strips, but I have never noticed any difference in results when I use these. Fluke love sea robin—fresh or frozen.

You don't want your baits to be too wide, so for best results and sure hooking, each slice should be cut lengthways through the center. This will give you two dark and two light pieces. If you use the darker ones over known sand bottom and the light pieces over mud, you'll find this works best; this doesn't mean, however, that dark pieces won't be seized by fish prowling over muddy areas. Just that it is easier for the fluke to spot, and there's certainly no harm done when you make it as easy as possible for them.

There are two distinct types of sea robins. One is quite heavy for its size; with a bucket mouth, white belly, and large beautiful black and orange-red fins. The other is not as large on the average; it also has a smaller mouth and is much duller in coloration.

Of the two, it is my belief that bait cut from the smaller robin is a better fluke producer. Why this should be so, I don't know; but this has been my observation for many years. I've noticed, too, that strips cut from these smaller robins have a firmer, dryer texture and this may be the reason. If I have a choice, I always select these smaller robins.

Cutting strips from large sea robins regardless of species will produce thick slices and these are apt to cause

(Continued on page 43.)

Small-mouth sea robins make ideal bait for inshore fluke fishing.

South Shore Spring Mackerel

by Bruce Sucher

The reports had not been good. Here it was, the last week in April, and the large body of migrating mackerel had yet to arrive. I'd been told by those who are supposed to know—namely the old-timers and party boat captains—that the fish "should" be in by the end of the month. That was after the first two trips I'd made had ended with discouraging results. The boats spent more time looking for the elusive schools than actually fishing. If I wanted a boat ride, I'd take the ferry. And I wasn't the only one disappointed. In years past, the mackerel season, with its bounty of full burlaps and elbow-to-elbow anglers, had saved more than one discouraging early season.

So with the blind enthusiasm of the dedicated fisherman, I boarded the uncrowded boat and took my spot in the bow. When it comes to drift fishing, I prefer the pointy end. Casting forward, my lure had little competition from neighbor's jigs. And if a fish is going to grab something shiny, it's going to be mine. Out of habit, most of the anglers aboard bunched into the stern—a good place to be if we were to anchor, but for macs that's not on the agenda. A boat stops on fish that the captain has read on his recorder and then drifts through them. When the action dies, you move. Especially when jig fishing on a party boat, I like to fish as far from the crowd as possible. When a boat is into fish and anglers are closely packed, it can be horrifying. Mac trees with three to five hooks, plus treble mounted jigs begin to fly; and in the midst of a blitz, anglers become careless. The danger of becoming the hookee rather than the hooker, is a thought you should keep in the portion of your brain marked "self-preservation." So look for a section of rail that has the fewest anglers and make that your mailing address.

Just before the boat pulled out, I saw a mate bring aboard a tin of bunker chum. Before sophisticated electronic fish finders, that's the way it was done. Stop in a likely area and chum the fish to the boat. It was also a good sign that this captain was willing to go the additional expense to provide action for his clients. "And it just might make the difference," I thought to myself as the Big Captain Bob eased away from Pier 1 and headed out of Sheepshead Bay.

The sun was shining, but the air still held the chill of morning. I poured a cup of coffee from my thermos and rigged my two rods. My first was a seven-foot, medium weight conventional outfit; the reel filled with fresh twenty-five pound test. I tied on a four hook mackerel tree and at the bottom, clipped on a two ounce Diamond jig. I had somewhat modified the standard tube tree to a point that I was satisfied with the results: namely, if the fish are shy and the schools thin, it outfishes the traditional rigging. That short length of mono between the dropper loop and the hook gives each individual tube better action. Now, when the schools of mackerel are thick it doesn't matter what you use, but thin out that school and you might just see the fish pull a finicky act that would rival the notorious Morris. That's when I guarantee that any extra effort you exert to produce this rig will be well rewarded.

My second outfit, a soft-action, seven-foot spinning rod with a Quick 330 and six pound test line was still a virgin. I had built it over the winter and, hopefully, today it would be broken in properly. I tied on a half-ounce Hopkins No-Eql and stowed it safely away. After I'd caught sufficient fish for food and bait, I'd break out the light stuff and have a ball. As you can see, when it comes to fishing, I'm optimistic. The first two trips had been a weak shadow of what mackerel fishing could be. Today, I felt would be the real thing.

The first stop was just east of Ambrose Light. I looked up to the wheel house, where I could see the captain carefully watching the fish finder. There wasn't a trace of a smile.

I cast away from the boat and let the rig sink about thirty feet; then I began to jig. When the drift began to lift my rig torwards the surface, I'd let out some line and continue jigging. In the stern I saw a double-header of macs come aboard, then a few singles. After I had let out about fifty feet of line, I reeled in and made another underhand cast. Before the jig had dropped to where I wanted it to be, the line went slack. I knew we were fishing in about eighty feet of water, so I hadn't touched bottom. I could picture a streamlined mackerel swimming with a hook in its mouth pulling the unoccupied tubes after it. Hopefully, another few would join him. After about ten seconds of leaving the slack line, I clicked the reel into gear and lifted. By the weight, I knew it was more than one fish.

The rod bucked and pumped and I could feel the fish's tail movement throbbing in the tip. Then the three fish were alongside. I lowered my rod and lifted them aboard. I could see the mate tossing watered chum and a few anglers were into fish—but it was slim pickings. I caught a dozen or so more fish and the action died. We stuck it out a little longer in hopes of drifting over another school. I

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dropped my jig to the bottom and in a little while, I was rewarded with a nice whiting. Then the horn blew and we were searching again.

The next stop only a few fish were caught. Other boats were scattered around and by their lack of concentration, I knew they were doing no better. Had one boat been into fish, he would have called in his buddies on the VHF and let them in on the action. Under way again, we headed towards Scotland Light. I was becoming cynical; the morning was half gone and I had only enough fish to keep my burlap sack from flapping in the breeze—but I was fortunate. A walk around the boat showed that many anglers had yet to score with a single fish.

We were within a few hundred yards of the Light when I felt the engines slow, then rapidly go into reverse. With a sudden burst of power from the twin V-12s, we were stopped. I looked up at the Captain and he was smiling. He motioned to me with his hands that the fish were stacked up thick on his recorder.

My first cast was ambushed after it had sunk about ten feet. This time I felt that it was a full house. The drag slipped and I slowly pumped in the quintet. As I lifted them aboard, one fell off. But I didn't care. Everyone from one end of the boat to the other was into fish. A young boy struggled, his arched rod pressed against the rail and gradually reeled the triple header up to the tip. His father was busy, but managed with one hand to grasp the boy's rod and help him swing the fish into the boat.

Whether or not the chum was responsible, I could not tell, but the fish stayed with us. At this pace, I soon had enough fish for my needs. I retired my heavier outfit and broke out the light spinning gear. This was a whole other ball game. I could feel the fish hit and rush away. The rod bent and bucked and I fought each mackerel to exhaustion. This was the way to fish. I enjoyed it a lot more than four or five at a time. I wasn't trying to set any records for the number of fish caught, just to have a good time. And I did until my wrist ached and I could stand no more. I gave the light rod to the mate, who was still busily chumming. His face lit up in a smile as he felt the fish on the more fragile equipment.

The captain made his call and the other boats flocked to us as if we'd found the secret of eternal life. Now the whole fleet was into fish.

After another hour, most everyone aboard was willing to call it a day. A lot of people had retired and were inside eating lunch. Pails overflowed and bags hung heavy with good catches. I began to take photos and help a few youngsters unhook their catch. Finally, the three horns. On the way in, everyone was busy cleaning their fish. They were tired, but cheerful—especially since there's nothing much to cleaning a mackerel. The scales fly off as you lift them aboard. All you've got to do is gut and decapitate them.

I cleaned about half my catch and left the rest whole to be frozen for bait. It's a good food fish when fresh, and especially when smoked; but it's an excellent bait used whole; they are great for shark, chunks are good for blues and bass, and filleted into strip bait, they can really do a number on big fluke.

The boat was tied up to its pier. Anglers carried and dragged their catches away. I stayed till the rush was over and watched the mates display their fish for sale to those waiting on the dock. I said good-bye to the captain.

"I hope it stays like this," he said, "Maybe their timetables got messed up with all that cold water."

"Yeah, it sure would be nice," and carried my things to the car.

As I rode home, I thought about how the commercial fishing fleet might be responsible for some of the season's mediocre mackerel fishing. I hope the 200 Mile Limit and new catch quotas will ease the pressure on these energetic little fish. And do your part, too. Don't take out the frustration of past fishless days on the mackerel.

Let's hope days like the one I've described will again become the rule and not the exception. And I hope that for the young boys and girls who experienced this bonanza, it will be part of their inheritance and not merely a slowly fading memory.

This angler swings aboard a full house of husky Bostons.

His first fish, this youngster didn't know which end to grab.

By the end of the day he was a real pro.

The mate tried the light tackle and liked it. Note the can of chum in the fore ground.

Surprise in the Sound!

by Andy Regina

The fish struck the worm-baited flounder hook with authority, and struggled to free itself with an intensity that was totally unbecoming to the normal fight usually put up by the small winter flounder we were catching that spring day in Eastchester Bay. Torturing the tiny ultra-light spinning reel into screaming protest against the six pound test being taken forcibly from a pre-set drag, and bowing the tiny spinning rod into an alarming arc, the fish gave promise of becoming our first striped bass of the year, which is not unusual here in The Bronx, as many spring bass are often caught on worms meant to entice flounder to our hooks.

As a matter of fact, all of our spring striper fishing is bait fishing. Later on when water temperatures warm up, we get our bass with lures; but right now it was a little too early in the year, and the water was still too cold to even consider bass yet. That's why we were in a boat, drifting off the police pistol range in Rodman's Neck, Eastchester Bay, for flounder. Our drift had just carried us past the mouth of Turtle Cove, a springtime hotspot for stripers, when I got that strike—which further convinced me that the fish was indeed a school bass.

Still convinced that the fish was a bass, I played it overly cautious, not wanting to lose my prize, allowing the fish to take line when it ran, knowing that the combination of a properly set drag and flexing rod would soon defeat the spunky battler. And the fish soon tired, giving ground grudgingly as it succumbed to the killing wand; its weakening efforts becoming feebler as it now barely overcame the power of the drag. As my prize neared the boat, I saw that it wasn't the striper I had thought it might be, but a large porgy. And as the fish came alongside, I finally saw that it wasn't a porgy either, but a nice white perch.

The white perch (Morone americanus) is a fish common to most of Long Island Sound, but is one that is completely alien to all but a few discerning anglers. Anadromous by nature, these fish swarm into North Atlantic tidal creeks and estuaries to spawn in the spring, remaining there throughout the summer until cooling waters once more trigger their migration to deeper waters offshore. They readily strike artificial lures, although they are suckers for tiny baits, such as grass shrimp or bits of sea worm.

Typical catch, made during one outgoing tide in Pelham Bay in the Bronx, at the mouth of the Eastchester Creek between the railroad bridge and Pelham Bay Bridge.

Fairly small in size, fish in the western end of the Sound run from a pound to a pound-and-a-half; but some larger specimens running up to four pounds are caught out east, in Peconic Bay and even in Long Island Sound near King's Park, at the mouth of the Nissequogue River. This scrapper is built like a porgy and is colored along those same lines, too: slab-sided, big-scaled, humpbacked, small-mouthed. They are gregarious, traveling in schools: where you catch one, chances are you will catch several, although these schools are not nearly as large as porgy schools—often being only pods of several fish at a time.

Look for these fish where there is freshwater running into sounds or bays; tidal creeks and river mouths are ideal locations, but any brackish water can harbor white perch and, like all perch (but they are really sea bass) everywhere, they display an affinity for pilings—so don't overlook any piers or docks in these areas. It seems that pilings attract marine life; barnacles and mussels attract small bait fish, and growths of seaweed provide food and shelter for tiny worms and shrimp—all of which make up the diet of the white perch.

Keeping this fact in mind, remember that white perch have small mouths, so keep hook sizes small to ensure success. If bait fishing, try to procure some grass shrimp (that's the number one perch tidbit); but they're hard to come by. Try seining with a fine mesh net, skimming pilings or patches of eel grass to snare grass shrimp, then impale one on a #6 fine-wire Sproat hook, which can be used singly or in tandem, by tying another hook halfway up the leader of the first one, in the same manner as tying flounder or porgy rigs.

The lack of grass shrimp doesn't mean that you're out of business either, because tiny pieces of worm can also be used successfully; use pieces about two or three inches long, and run them up the hook shank, like stringing beads. Don't bunch the bait up on the hook into a blob either: make at least an inch of that worm trail off the hook, so that it looks more natural and appealing in the water. Tiny bait fish, killies or spearing, can also be used, but be certain that they are exactly that—tiny. Fished live, you can hook this bait as you would for fluke—once through the lips, permitting the bait to swim naturally; dead bait fish can be hooked through the eyes, again as you would fish for fluke. And fish all baits on the

bottom, although you can probe mid-depths if bottom fishing fails, as perch have a habit of feeding at different levels.

Tidal stages don't seem to make too much of a difference to perch. They will bite at various stages of the tide, but seem to show a preference for low outgoing, perhaps because of all the natural baits being flushed outward from creeks and rivers, by the receding water. At any rate, it may be worth your while to fish river and creek mouths on the ebb.

Perhaps the best part about perch fishing is the fact that they readily strike lures. Again, as in bait fishing, bear in mind the small mouth of the perch and its diminutive size overall, and keep lures on the small side. Spoons, spinners, flies, plugs, and jigs all will catch perch. Just keep lures small, and fish 'em slow and deep. Bucktail jigs are good and the plastic tailed variety are good, also. Any lure is only as good as it works, and you must make your lures appear like natural bait for them to be successful. Jigs must be bounced on the bottom, and retrieved with slow, sweeping motions to look like live bait to the fish. Spoons should wobble, flashing a come-hither appeal to predators, and plugs should be the deep running type—either small jointed types, or those "alphabet" types that come in tiny sizes.

A trick that perks up the appetite of even the most disinterested perch is combining bait with lures. Try impaling a tiny piece of worm on a bucktail or plastic-tailed jig, hooking the worm once through the head, and letting it trail out naturally. Color choices for jigs varies with each individual angler, but you should definitely include some all-black jigs in your selection. This color seems to work best for me, and may very well do the same for you, too, especially if you fish discolored water such as we have in The Bronx. This further leads me to believe that dark colors will work best on cloudy or overcast days also, when underwater visibility is minimal.

Don't confine your quest for perch to a springtime affair either, because they can save the day in late summer also, when your primary targets may prove uncooperative. Just remember to keep your tackle on the light side; not only will light tackle allow you to enjoy these small scrappers to the fullest, it will facilitate the casting of the ultra-light lures you will now be using.

Because the white perch inhabits shallow inshore waters, it is virtually overlooked by the majority of fishermen who refuse to "waste time" close to shore, in their haste to get out to deeper water "where the fish are." They quite often disregard the old man or the young boy who is fishing from the very marina that they are hastily departing from; but sometimes it is this very same man or boy who carries home a full stringer of

(Continued on page 37.)

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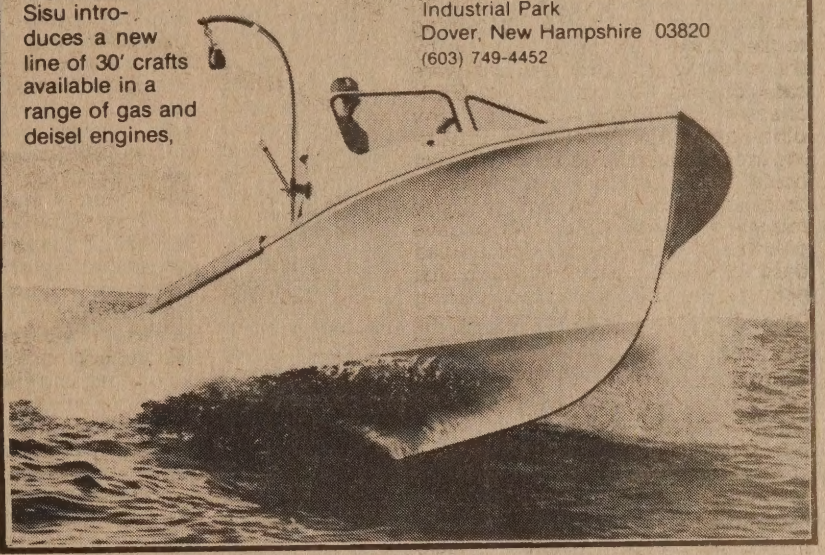

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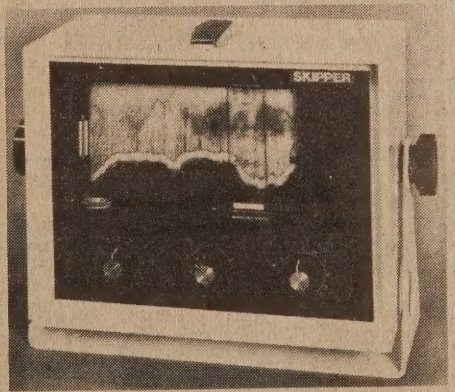

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Flounders Mean *Action!*

by D. W. Anthony

There are perhaps as many ways to catch flounders as there are flounder fishermen. Fishermen in different locations have developed techniques that are combinations of habit, experimentation, and plain common sense. In Rhode Island, for example, it is not uncommon for flounder fishermen to fish sandy or mixed sand and mud bottoms when seeking flounder. They attempt to intercept the fish as they are moving from shallow inshore spots to deeper offshore haunts where the fish will spend the summer. However, these flatfish are likely to be spread out and the likelihood of gathering up an audience of flounder is not very likely. So the Rhode Island flounder fisherman ties his two-hook rig a little differently than we would on Long Island. He staggers the hooks; tying one right above the sinker, and the second several inches up the line. Now, when he casts to spots around his boat, the angle of the line to the rod becomes quite exaggerated. In effect, he is forced to use the same technique as a surf fisherman. By tying two hooks at different heights above the sinker, the fisherman is assured that a baited hook will be on or close to the bottom at all times. It's a clever modification of an established practice and it catches flounders.

Most flounder fishermen suspect that there is a lot more creativity involved in flounder fishing than many observers may believe. I've seen lots of different tricks applied to the trade, as I'm sure that you have, and many of them are effective. Still, each area has its time-tested approaches and these styles of fishing have become traditional. Flounder fishermen like ourselves can usually return to the same spots year after year and count on catching enough fish to add many delicious fillets to the freezer; but fishing is fishing and new spots and territories are constantly opening up. Communication about saltwater fishing has increased tremendously in the last few decades and this communication seems to benefit all of us.

The combination of more sharing and more experimenting significantly expanded the flounder fishing possibilities around Long Island. Time was when Great South Bay was the land of the postage stamps. Then, fishermen discovered that if they fished the east end of the bay early—say between late February and the end of March, that they could take many nice fish.

The giants of Mount Misery Shoals near Port Jefferson were a surprise to many, but not everybody. The June action there, as well as off other nearby beaches has added some spark to the otherwise lackluster flatfish fishing in Long Island Sound. But should that be true? Inspired by Mount Misery Shoals, anglers hunted elsewhere and found respectable fish in Oyster Bay, Setauket Harbor, and around Eaton's Neck.

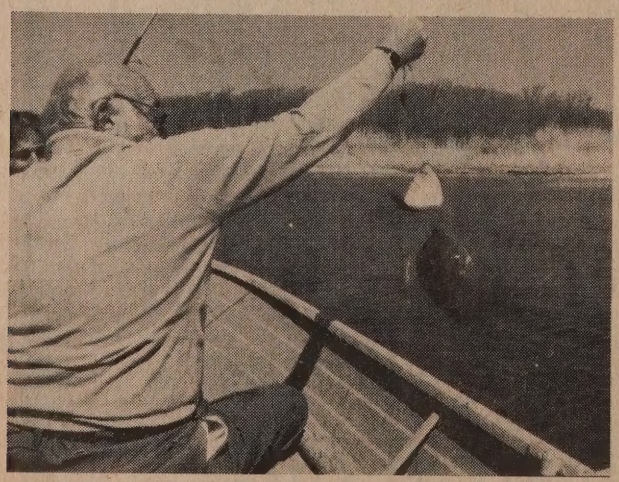
Historically, Peconic Bay was the "Land of the Giants," but some of those east end spots do not seem to hold the same numbers of big fish that they once did. Cycles are cycles and few good fishermen would be surprised if east end waters experienced a banner year after three or four poor ones.

Fish are where you find them! Now there's an obvious statement! But it is true. As fishermen, we gravitate to the places that report good action, but those who strike out to explore new grounds or who re-visit the scenes of past and almost forgotten conquests, are surprised by outstanding success. It's been many years since Gardiner's Bay was the stage for a great flounder slaughter, but that does not mean that this year will not be noteworthy.

The extreme western portion of Long Island Sound has the reputation for smallish flounders, but I'll bet that there are some sharpies down there who know where there are big fish to be caught. There was a good-sized fish kill in the western Sound about five or six years ago and one of the victims were flounders. Although many midgets littered the beaches, there were enough two and even three-pound fish seen to make it fairly certain that one can succeed down west.

Montauk's Washington Shoals was once the site for snowshoe flounder action in June. Fishermen would take some cod there, too. However, the action declined there, and in 1977, one was hard-pressed to find even one boat plying the grounds. So, the crowd gathered at Culloden Point and for a few weeks, the action was superior. If it hadn't been for the outstanding run of cod and pollock at Block Island, Culloden action would have been the talk of Montauk.

In the years ahead, we may become habitualized to these "new" areas the way we were to the old. Mount Mishery Shoals, Callahan's Beach, and Culloden Point may become the "Meccas" of flounder fishing for



Double-headers add exciting spice to the fast action.

This flounder took a worm, but other good baits include clams, mussels and piggy-back snails.

tomorrow. Then too, in the years ahead, the quality and quantity of the catches in these spots may decline, only to lead some to wonder if the flounder are disappearing. We'll all yearn for the good old days when we caught all of those nice flounders at this spot or that.

Well, it shouldn't be a surprise then if one of us, one more blessed with fishing instincts and know-how than I, forges a new trail. New? Probably not new, but courageous nonetheless. The "new" territory will probably turn out to be Washington Shoals, Gardiner's Bay, or Nassau Point. How many times has this turnover of the new and old occurred?

The real beauty of this sport of ours is the contrast between constant change and steady unadorned constants! We can't see what the fish are doing or why they do it, but we don't have to. Productive areas shift for good reasons, because fish are not whimsical or vengeful.

If the flounder move from Washington Shoals to Culloden Point, they do so because the conditions that favor their success—more than likely, food—are more to their liking at Culloden Point than at Washington Shoals. It is frustrating to us fishermen trying to find the animals, but nature is motivated by sound reasons. Many fishermen might disagree with the following premise, but I would tend to believe that the scene of hot action will shift back to Washington Shoals some day.

I like to think of myself as a fisherman who is willing to experiment with tackle, baits, and seasons. But I must confess that I lose my courage when it comes to changing locales. I prefer to fish the percentages; but thank goodness for the explorers among us. While I'm likely to be sitting catching very little in a worn-out hole I've worked for years, the explorers will strike out to find new "hotspots." I admire their instincts and their fishing courage.

Ironically, I believe that each new shift of territories will have its own set of explorers. Yesterday's pioneers are likely to become today's conservatives. And so it should be, I guess! The time comes when the pioneer, having developed a repertoire of good fishing spots and a unique collection of secret methods, sticks with the percentages. They will fish the odds and they will more than likely succeed even if the quality of the flounder fishing declines in their favored holes. But their knowledge of these areas is usually so intimate that they can compensate for declining action with diligence and refined skills.

The newcomer—either new to the area or to the species—may become impatient. Good fishermen are quick to learn the ways of local experts. In spite of some success, they may believe that there are greener pastures somewhere nearby. They will dream of as yet unfished spots where the flounders lie like logs next to a fireplace.

The newcomer sips a beer in a local tavern and asks the regulars why they do not try "new" areas. He asks questions about a likely spot here and another one over there. "You'll learn," they reply with a chuckle of private understanding. "Fishing isn't what it used to be. Why, twenty years ago we could easily catch 100 big flounder where we fished today. Today, we bust our butts for twenty-five!" "Why don't you try?" the newcomer asks. The regulars advise him to "...stick with what you've got and fill the box, son."

The next morning our explorer, fast to the tradition of Lewis and Clark, Columbus, and others who made history, turns east, instead of west with the fleet. He has heard about the old days when flounders the size of tennis rackets were plentiful at a place called Washington Shoals. They took some cod there, too, he has been told.

First, he must find the place. Luckily, nautical charts will put him close and electronics will put him on the money. He is convinced that he is right even before he has wet a line, but some anxiety remains. He tells himself that he must be patient. He pumps himself up with artificial confidence and reminds himself that he may not take fish right away: the application of trial-and-error will find the fish!

He watches with concern as the fleet builds up on the western horizon. They appear as blurry, small grey flecks. It is a flat, calm day and the tide is coming in. "Perfect conditions for Culloden," he tells himself. He begins to

Good flounder fishing provides great fun and plenty of delicious fillets for the table.

use this as an excuse to believe that they are catching great numbers of fish. This will be the day that the fishing breaks open. There is a tremendous temptation to pull anchor and fish there. If he leaves without catching a fish and someone should ask him about the Shoals, he may tell them that there were no fish there and that the old stories are just that—stories.

Then, too, he may stick it out. No fish on the first drop, or the second, or the third. The chum is three-quarters gone and his concern grows. On the fourth drop, an interesting bowl-shaped depression with a variable bottom contour, the first fish comes over the rail before the chum has had a chance. It's a nice fish, too, and will probably weigh about two-and-a-half pounds. His heart pounds a little noticeably and he anticipates, then calms himself down in case his enthusiasm might jinx the show.

But when the chum starts working, the flounders start coming with great regularity and some are true snowshoes. That afternoon on the dock he is a hero. Everyone wants to know where and how he did it. He is basking in the spotlight of recognition and he loves it. He is not just a pioneer, he is a successful one! Tomorrow there will be many more boats on the Shoals and fewer at Culloden, and if the run of fish holds up, the day may come when most fishermen will remember Culloden as a faint and often pleasant memory.

Fish are where you find them! Ask the Rhode Island fisherman and he'll tell you to power up close to the beach and fish the sand trough. The fella in Great South Bay will urge you to find the deepest mud hole. Me? Well, I might urge you to check the mud to see how much life it contained, but then I'm only guessing like the rest and my guesses only work in my own back yard. Our pioneer will tell you not to waste your time and money anywhere else but on the Shoals.

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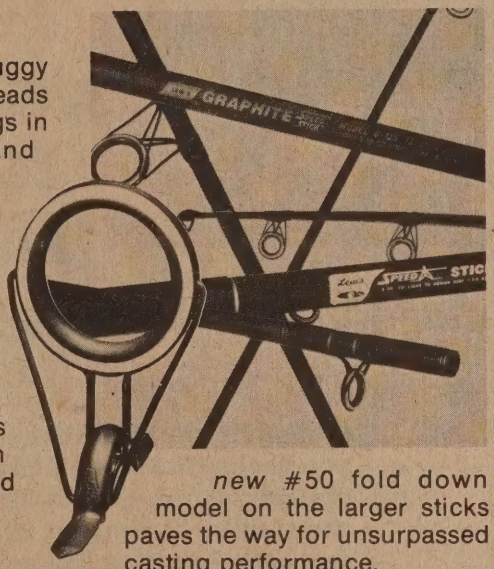

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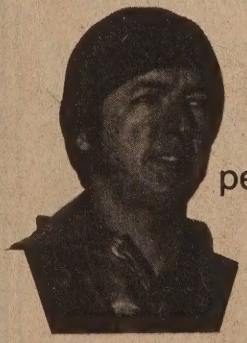

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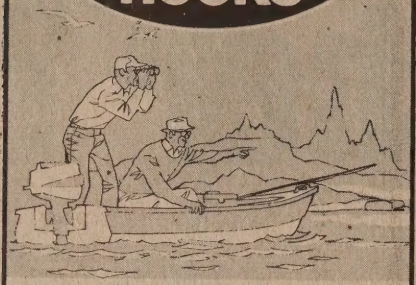

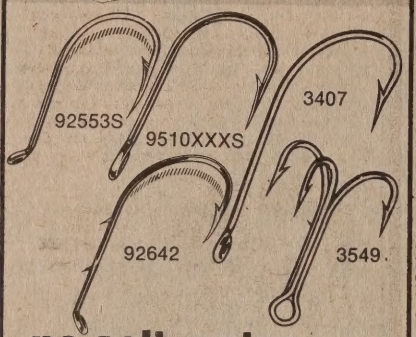

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

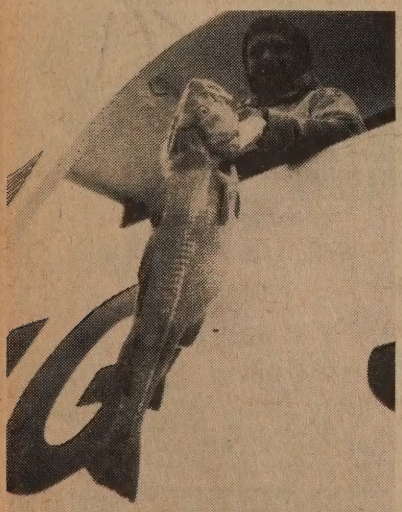
The Triton II reports fishing was poor on Saturday due to high winds, but Sunday's charter of 12, fishing south of Block Island with Capt. Hickey at the helm had over 150 cod, from 6 to 15 lbs., all on bait, drifting. No pollock yet.

Viking Skipper II reports Saturday's fishing at Block Island provided cod for fares who stayed at the rail and put in the time. Cod taken ranged from 5 to 12 lbs., and some fares had full bags.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported that the codfishing has still been terrific everyday. During the week the catches ranged from 350 to 400 fish a day and almost all aboard are getting off the boat with a bag full. The fish are averaging 7 to 10 lbs., but the pool is usually taken by a 35 to 40 pounder. Best area has been off Block Island, but Cartwright grounds are also producing excellent catches on both diamond jigs and bait. The captain also asked us to pass the word along that all the tickets for this weekend's trips, Sat., April 15 and Sun., April 16, have been sold.

Frank Tuma, Jr., of **Tuma's Tackle Shop** said the store is now open daily. The charterboat fleet is rushing to get their boats in the water to get in on the excellent run of cod Montauk is having this spring. Call for reservations.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the yard is busy with activity as members are working hard to get their boats in the water for the great spring fishing. Henry noted that the Marina has almost all of the slips rented for the season, but there are still transient slips available. He suggested that those who usually bring their boats to the Point for a few days or weeks, call now to make reservations so they don't get shut out due to the possible slip shortage this summer.



John Alberda of Seaford won the pool with this 44 lb. cod taken aboard the "Viking Starship" out of Montauk.

An angler holds a nice size flounder taken at Shinnecock Canal.

EAST HAMPTON

Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station reports extremely good flounder fishing over the weekend. John Bernardon and Al Schnoor of Jackson Heights Anglers had 64 flounder up to 2½ lbs. on mussel baits and heavy mussel chumming on outgoing. Best was just opposite the station on the edge of the channel. Mrs. Cox says all their skiffs did well and that the flounder are in strong. Both sides of the high produced best this past week.

SHINNECOCK

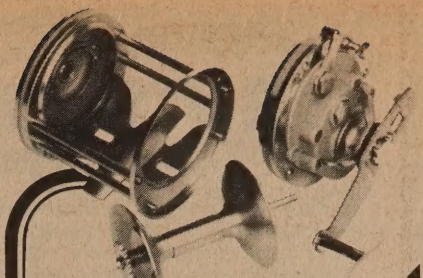
Reports out of **Altenkirch Tackle** tell us that they are still massacreeing the flounder in the Shinnecock Canal when the locks are closed. The water is still cold enough for the fish, and many are in the 1 lb. class. During the week a flounder of 1 lb. 12 oz. was weighed in. Flounder are also providing very good catches in the Basket Area, Shinnecock Bay and the Quogue Canal, where anglers are also getting a sprinkling of tommy cod as a bonus. Bloodworms with mussel chum best bet.

The Capt. Clark I and II report excellent flounder fishing all week long, though it slowed down a little on the weekend due to the high winds. Walter Bomhoff and wife Marvel, had 52 fish from 1 to 2 lbs. on Friday. Everybody had 20 fish or better, with mussels remaining the best bait. The flounder fishing will continue to improve as the weather warms.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** tells us of dozens of harbor seals in Moriches Harbor that are swimming and climbing and diving from the rocks and the beaches. He says it's a beautiful sight. On Saturday, Bill and buddies Dan and Ray fished just east of the first bridge for 16 keeper flounder and 80 plus throwbacks fishing the whole day with bloodworms and clam chum. The same day, Ed and Bob Henderson and Ken Montgomery all of Great Gun Anglers took 29 keepers fishing east of the first bridge on worms and clam.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that



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the fish are moving to the west. While huge catches of small fish are still being taken at the Westhampton Bridge, the bigger fish in the 1 to 2 lb. variety are now at buoys 46-44. Lots of 2 pounders mixed in. Even on Saturday and Sunday, catches of from 30 to 50 flounder were had per boat. Virtually all fish at 46-44 are big and are being taken on worm, mussel or a small piece of red dyed clam. Steve classifies the flounder fishing as fabulous as evidenced by even good catches on the windy weekend. Steve also tells of an unconfirmed catch of 200 pounds of mackerel offshore.

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz's Fishing Station** tells us the flounder fishing was very good all week at Smith Point Bridge and at buoy 17. The largest fish he weighed in went 2 lb. 6 oz. The weekend saw only poor to fair catches due to the strong winds. Action should be red hot once the weather settles and warms. The flood tide has been best with worms, clam and mussels, chumming recommended. Thursday and Friday saw super catches of 50-90 flounder per boat, all fish 1 lb. and up.

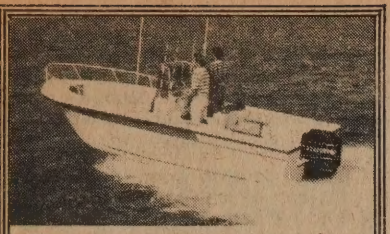
WEST SAYVILLE

Jim at **South Bay Fishing Station** tells us flounder catches were good this weekend and all during the Week. Sal Vitale of Levittown and three pals had 75 keeper flounder, while John Macejica of Mineola and a buddy had 60 keeper flounder. The average catches were 20-30 fish per man in his skiffs. Bloodworms and mussel and clam chum did the trick at buoys 4 and 5 off the Heckscher Flats. Jim says the flounder action is good and strong and steady.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** reports flounder fishing very good, as evidenced by Frank and Valerie Bagnosco, Gus and Bob of Queens, who took over 200 flounder from 1 to 2¼ lbs., and returned a lot of midgets. Frank, Willie, Pete and

Jack Berman, Al Costellano and Lou Annie with their catch of 192 flounder up to 2½ lbs., taken near buoy 52 on frozen dyed clams and bloodworms. Heavy chumming was a must. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.



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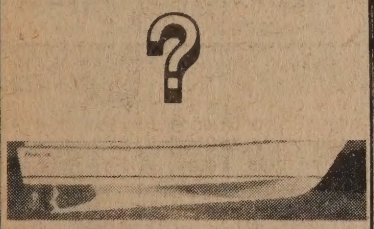

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Frankie had over 150 flounder in five hours. Howie Reeves had 301 keepers. All of the above occurred on Sunday on worms, clam and mussel baits, along with heavy mussel chumming on both tides. Vinnie says they're biting steady between the station and Davis Park, which he describes as a big triangular area.

BAY SHORE

Charterboat **Sea Ranger** called to tell us that his two charters over the weekend did well on flounders fishing areas from Heckscher to Cherry Grove on worms and clam. Fish were mixed sizes, though a little smaller than last week. Capt. John also tells us that he saved two men who went into the water from an overturned sailboat at the Babylon Cut on Saturday. First aid was given and when they got back, the Suffolk County PD took the two drenched sailors to the hospital. Good fast action by Capt. John Bilitsky probably saved these two men's lives.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports the flounder fishing remains very good, fish from 1¼ to 3 lbs. Hot areas seem to be west of buoy 4, the deep water in North Channel, Bayshore. Also Ocean Beach, Sailor's Haven and the inner and outer clam pond. There are indications that the fish are starting to move to the Fire Island side. Mussels, worms and clam are working along with mussel chum. Sandworms are accounting for bigger fish.

Capt. Neil of the **Casey Lee** reports flounder fishing ranged from fair to fantastic this past week. Monday's high hook was 40 fish. On Tuesday, four men had 97 flounder. Wednesday was only fair due to the strong winds. Thursday was good and Friday was fantastic with 19 men taking 500 fish, high hook 45. Saturday and Sunday was only fair, with 200 to 250 flounder taken per day. Best area was between buoy 2 off Bayshore through Sailor's Haven, all tides on clam, worms, and mussels.

CAPTREE

Capt. Charlie Kennedy on the **Captain Joseph** called us Monday morning via the marine operator and reported that he had a lot of fish coming over the rail and that he expected a bonanza day. Charlie said the flounder action had been very good all this past week and weekend fishing Heckscher to the tune of 15 to 30 flounder per man. He also made good catches at the Blue Point oyster lots. On Saturday, he had approximately 450 plus flounder in just two drops. Sunday saw approximately 800 fish, all keepers, for 60 fares. Everybody had fish. Bill Carberry and son of Malvern had 61 flounder between them, all on clam and worm. The last of the flood

The Gnyp family from Capt. Bill's in Bay Shore took this nice catch of flounder aboard the "Casey Lee" out of Bayshore.

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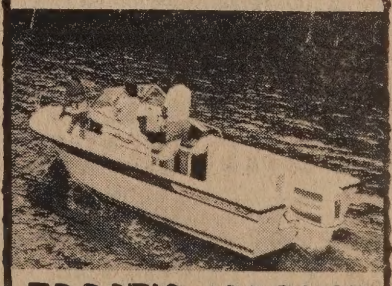

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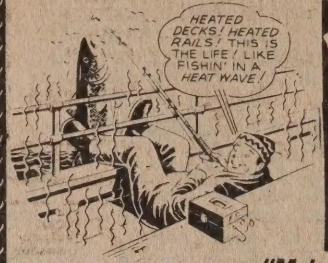

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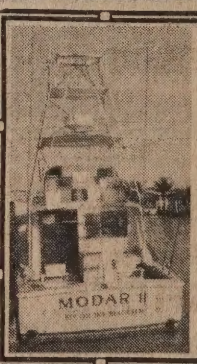

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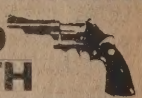

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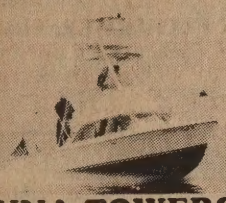

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was working best.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** reports continued excellent flounder fishing with hundreds of fish being caught by his passengers each day. On Wednesday, he had roughly 700 fish, averaging about 20 per man. These were all large fish. Most days' catches were from 10 to 20 per man, with several days more on the high side. Pool fish all averaged 2 to 2½ lbs. A four-way tie occurred on Thursday, all fish weighing precisely 2 lbs. 5 oz. Bait has been worm and clam and Gordon is working a large body of fish on the Heckscher hotspots with just a very few drops required.

Capt. Walter of the **Lady Ann** reports that Saturday saw very good flounder fishing to the tune of approximately 250 fish for Saturday's charter. Sunday was fantastic flounder fishing with approximately 400 big fish for 27 fares, all this being between buoy 2 Bayshore and buoy 24, off Sayville on worms, clam, mussels and undyed clam.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** told us that the flounder action is still very, very good, fantastic when compared with recent years. During the week some anglers were getting as many as 50 to 60 fish each, and weekend scores were up to 20 to 25 fish a man. The fish are mixed sizes with plenty of one pounders mixed in and even an occasional two pounder. During the week the hot area was the Heckscher Flats, but most of the weekend fishing was around Patchogue and Bluepoint. The fish are hitting in spurts and worms, skimmer clams and mussels are all producing.

BABYLON

Charlie's Fishing Station reports excellent catches on Sunday by virtually all of their boats. Mr. Hyland of North Babylon with two buddies filled two buckets full of

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flounders. This was at the Babylon Cut in just a couple of hours on worms and clam baits. Joe Hartz and son, Rich, worked the State Channel mid-week and in two hours bagged 44 keeper flounder.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** reports flounders are all over the place, being caught from 30 to 70 fish per skiff. The fish are spread out and are not difficult to find. The head buoy at the Babylon cut in five feet of water, the hole behind Good Sam, and the area just east of the bridge on the south side are all strong producers now. Don't forget to churn up the bottom. Bill says he has never seen so many flounders being brought in. Bill Donovan and his two sons took 107 keeper flounders on Saturday and Sunday fishing Heckscher with bloodworms and clams. Everybody's getting fish and it seems to be the best season in at least five years.

Augie's Bait and Tackle also says lots of flounder being caught just about everywhere. Chip Byrne of West Islip had 78 keeper flounder on Saturday fishing Heckscher from his boat, "Dolphin K." The biggest ran 1 lb. 14 oz. Plenty of fish! Catches from 25 to 70 per man are typical. Klaus Hartmann and buddy Alex on Saturday bagged 50 keeper flounders using worm and clam on the Captree charter boat **Capt. Eddie B.** Ski says there are many other flounder catches, too many to enumerate, but that the fishing is just super. At the Babylon Cut, behind the hospital, in the State Channel and on the Heckscher Flats.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells us flounders are still going strong, catches of 30 to 40 per man typical. The Amityville Cut, Sloop Channel and West Island have been producing well. The Heckscher Flats are holding fish up to 2 lbs., and the bigger fish seem to want clam baits, chumming or stirring up the bottom is extremely important.

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** reports flounders still strong with large catches up to 2½ lbs., from Heckscher Flats, Four Corners, the State Channel off the Babylon Cut, Amity Cut and even Copiague Beach. Worm and clam are working best and Larry says it's undoubtedly the best flounder season in years.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports plenty of flounders are out there to be caught. Some good spots are off Good Sam, off Heckscher State Park, Oak Beach, both from boats and for casters. The Town Dock, Babylon Cut at State Channel and the Copiague Hole. John says lots of fish and the sizes very good, on mussel, clam and worm, and of course, chum or stir the bottom up.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports excellent flounder action at West Island, Squaw Island and Fort Neck Point. Goose Creek, Amityville Cut, and Unqua Point are also producing very well. Lots of flounder pounders are switching to sand worms and doing an excellent job and they are getting more worm for their bait dollar. Chumming with mussels is a must and they are also excellent on the hook. Nice catches of white perch in brackish water on sand worms and night crawlers. George says that he just got in his shipment of Jet Lures from Hawaii.

SEAFORD

Ed at **Shore Isle Marina** reports that on Sunday, Frank Leonhardt of Rdigewood took 24 good sized flounder fishing Horn's Creek with sand worm and mussel and heavy chumming on the ebb. Two dozen flounder were taken by another angler

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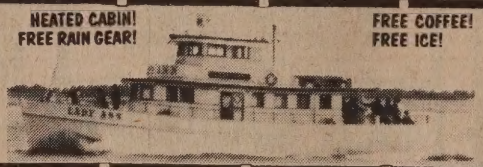

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★ ALL ALUMINUM • 78' LONG • 24' WIDE • 1800 H.P. ★
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★ CLEAN
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★ REST ROOMS
Heated Cabin • Galley • Senior Citizen's Weekdays★
flounder fishing begins March 24th, 1978—7 A.M.
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★ FLOUNDERS DAILY FROM MAPLE AVE., BAY SHORE ★
65 FT. CASEY LEE 7:45 AM
★ CLOSEST BOAT TO FISHING GROUNDS. JUST 15 MIN. TO BIG HECKSCHER FLOUNDERS.
★ JUST 7 MIN. DRIVE FROM CAPTREE!
★ JUST 5 MIN. WALK from BUS or L.I.R.R.
★ RESTAURANT ON DOCK OPENS AT 7 AM
SHE'S HERE!!!
GOOD FISHING NOW!!!
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FREE! WORMS & CLAMS NO TOLLS • FREE PKG.
FREE! RODS & REELS HOOKS & SINKERS
GIANT HEATED CABIN • RAIN GEAR SUPPLIED
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FLOUNDER • FLOUNDER • FLOUNDER
MACKS • FLUKE • BLUES • TUNA • SHARKS A SPECIALTY
CAPT. JOHN BILITSKY
(516) 586-7094
Sailing from Babylon Town Dock, Opposite Riverboat Restaurant

fishing off Ed's bulkhead in Island Creek. This is in a hole 30 seconds from Ed's dock.

Scott at **Naomi Inn Fishing Station** reports good flounder activity at Four Corners and vicinity, with the best occurring at the beginning of the ebb. One of their skiffs had three dozen keeper flounder doing this on Sunday, with sand worms and mussel chum. Scott and his brother, Bob are now running the fishing station, the marina and the bar/carco grill. You might want to drop in for a quiet afternoon or evening's relaxation as the place really has atmosphere and Scott and Bob are eager to please.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports that a lot of anglers are now switching over to sand worms and that they are catching as well as any other bait. Flounder action is still strong, though it slowed a little on the weekend due to the strong winds and high tides. Good areas have been West Island, Squaw Island, Massapequa Cove, off Florence Beach with the flood working best and mussel chum recommended.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Marina** tells us that all his boats were out on Saturday and all returned with fish as they did on Sunday. Middle Bay is the area and mussels and blood worms along with mussel chum do the trick. Big catch of the weekend was for Frank Buscaino, daughter Maria and pal, Joe, with 50 flatties up to 1¾ lbs.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine Supplies reports lot of flounder being caught in Baldwin Bay and Merrick Bay on mussels and worms, on all moving tides.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports his skiffs have been averaging 20 to 30 fish per boat all week, with the last of the flood apparently working best. Bearded, cigar-chomping Sal again bagged 20 flatties at the third pole of Nick's Dock. This was on Sunday morning and also on Monday morning. Jimmy says that Merrick Point is also a good drop with Broad Creek producing fewer but bigger fish. On Sunday, LIF ad manager, Stu Miller, daughter Lisa and her friend, David, bagged 19 big flounder in the area of Sea Dog Creek. This was on Stu's boat, "Snoopy."

SURPRISE IN THE SOUND!

(Continued from page 21.)

perch, while they, themselves, often go fishless.

A good fisherman, any good fisherman, does not close his eyes to any possibility, nor his mind to some darn good fishing. The name of the game is fun—go out and catch some perch, and enjoy yourself!

★NORTH SHORE★

NEW WILHELRIC II

FLOUNDERS
★8AM DAILY★

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BIG FLOUNDERS

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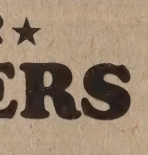

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★BIG FLOUNDERS★
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$6.50—Half-Day (8 AM to Noon)
WOW! Private charters daily—All Occas., up to 49 pass., from only $200!
From: Knutson's Marina—L.I.E. to exit 49N (Rt. 110, Huntington) to end of New York Avenue
CAPT. DON & MARY CONSTANTIN
(516) 486-6022 (after 6 PM)

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Capt. Al reported an 18 to 20 fish average per man catch, both Saturday and Sunday, while Monday saw very good flounder catches at Squaw Island. Wednesday they fished the channels and State Channel. The fish are still big, though there are some throwbacks. Al reports that some mackerel were jigged off Moriches, but not too much in the way of details. Still a lot of flounder in the Bay, he says. The higher than usual tides and the strong winds made things a little sluggish on the weekend, but with a little warm up of air and water, super flounder action should return.

The Aloma II reports that although Saturday was slow, Sunday's catches were good/excellent, fish up to 2 lbs. Loads of fish, says Paul. He fished Cinder Creek, Sea Dog Creek and Reynold's Channel, with mussel baits working best. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday saw very good catches to 2 lbs. in these areas. Five fares from Pennsylvania on Friday took home 90 fish. Paul recommends you come on down during the week when catches are bigger due to less competition from other anglers and other boats.

The Starstream II reports that on Sunday he averaged 25 big whiting per man, as Saturday's winds eased up. Capt. Richie also tells us that Maryland and south Jersey trawlers have been making good catches of mackerel, which should be here soon and as soon as they are within striking distance, the Starstream will be right after them.

The open boat **Captain Hall** tells us that though Saturday and Sunday were fair days, Thursday was his best day this past week, with strong catches being enjoyed by all fares. High hook was 36 fish and the brother of high hook had 28 fish. The boat is fishing local creek and channel areas.

Charter boat **Blue Fin II** called to tell us that Saturday's charter suffered from the strong winds, but that Sunday saw an excellent catch of over 300 flounder fishing the Reynolds Channel area with worms, dyed clam and regular clam. No chum and no stirring of the bottom. The pool was taken by H. Bravo of Manhattan with a 2 lb. flounder. High hook was John Lignori of Richmond Hill with 16 fish.

The Miss Freeport tells us via the marine operator that on Saturday, Joe Fishel, a VP for the National Bank of North America took the pool and was also high hook with 14 flatties fishing local waters. Sunday's trip was good in the afternoon and Capt. Tony was also doing a good job on Monday when he called. He had a good load of fish on by 10:30 a.m.

The Freeport Boatmen's Association tells us that over the weekend the Acme and the Atlantic had charters out picking away at flounder and though a lot of drops were necessary on these two off-peak days, they returned with decent catches. The other Associaton boats will be sailing in force by this coming weekend.

Hook, Line & Sinker Bait and Tackle told us that Lowell Eidman on Sunday had nine good size flounder fishing Reynold's Channel with worms. A 2 lb. 3 oz. flounder was amongst these and is getting a Skillful Angler Award. Waterfront Park and

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

FLOUNDER TIME!!
★ CALM WATERS—NO SEASICKNESS! ★
★ Fun for the whole Family! ★
DOROTHY B
BIG 85' • LATEST ELECTRONICS • LADIES ACCOM.
HEATED CABIN • HOT FOOD • HELPFUL CREW
WORMS, MUSSELS, CLAMS INCLUDED!
★ 8 AM DAILY • PIER 6
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WHITING • LING
NEW EAGLE
7 A.M. DAILY • PIER 9
120' Steel Boat • Restaurant • Bait
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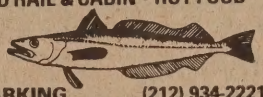
HEATED RAIL & CABIN • HOT FOOD

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100' Long • 24' Beam • 3 V-12's, 1800 H.P.
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SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 1
NEW ZEPHYR
★ FLOUNDER ★
—7 AM DAILY—
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FREE RODS • HEATED CABIN • SUPER SERVICE
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SHEEPSHEAD BAY • PIER 7
PILOT II
7 AM DAILY
72' Triple Diesel

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Blue Sea III
90' Open Boat • Full Electronics
COD • WHITING • DAILY 8 AM
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Pier 8 • SHEEPSHEAD BAY
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75' OPEN BOAT • SAILING ALL YEAR ROUND!
Fast 20 Knots Cruising • Twin Turbo-12 Diesels
FULL ELECTRONICS • RESTAURANT • TACKLE
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★ WATCH FOR US AT PIER 8 ★

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PARKWAY FISH. STA.
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BELT PARKWAY
"BABE"
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STATEN ISLAND

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40' Diesel Sportfisherman

BLUES—Day or Nite
SHARK • TUNA
STRIPERS • BOTTOM
Capt. Angie Serio
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Mansion Marina
Gr. Kills, Staten Is.
6 Pass. Charter Boat

Baldwin Bay in the mouth of Woodcleft Canal are also producing.

Greg of **Sea Isle Sports** had a new angle on evening and night flounder fishing which could start a whole new type of fishery locally. Watch this column for further info on Greg's secret weapon. Otherwise, good flounder activity during the week in virtually all of the local creek and channels on worms, clam and mussel, with things slowing on the weekend due to the weather.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports catches of 30 to 40 flounder per skiff, the fish are there and they are big, from High Flats Drain to Lombardo's and from the golf course to Funday. George Gruber, Jr., and pals on Sunday pulled 53 good flounder at High Flats Drain with the top of the tide best on worms and clam.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports excellent flounder fishing over the weekend. Walter and Steve Petrowski of Queens Village took 55 flounder up to 2½ lbs., fishing the flats in Middle Bay with worms and mussel chum played an important factor. Bruno Grabiec and Tom Mauro took 55 to 60 flounder up to 2 lbs., also in Middle Bay with the same baits. North Channel and Cinder Creek are also producing well.

Scotty's Marina reports that Middle Bay, the State Channel, the water tower at Pt. Lookout, Reynold's Channel and Lido and Shaffer Creek are producing flounder up to 2 lbs. Mussels and clams are working best during slack water and worms are doing the job on the moving water.

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EBB TIDE
★ FLOUNDER ★
Nite Charters Avail.
All Electronics • 2 Cabins • Restaurant
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★ HELPFUL, COURTEOUS CREW! ★
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NORTH ☆ STAR
★ FLOUNDERS ★
—DAILY 7:30 AM—
From City Island
65' Open Boat • Complete Electronics
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65' Open Boat • Complete Electronics
★ RESTAURANT ★
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BAIT • TACKLE • RESTAURANT
★ LADIES ACCOMMODATIONS ★
DAILY 9 AM ★ (212) 885-0843
First Traffic Light at Jack's Bait & Tackle

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Clem of the **Commodore** tells us that on Saturday, Frank Herskowitz of Far Rockaway, bagged 35 flounder while Judy Stevenson of Island Park had 19 fish up to 2½ lbs. Hog Channel was good in the morning and they picked away there all day. Good fishermen had 12 to 15 per man, with novices a lot fewer fish. It was good despite the wind. Sunday's fishing tended to be picky, with the wind and the moon tide. Gene Martin of Woodside pulled a 2 lb. 3 oz. flounder and took the pool Clem says the weekdays are super. He fished Reynold's Channel from buoys 16 to 20, Hog Channel buoy, The Duck Point oyster beds. The fish are still up in the back areas and should be a good week before they start to slip into the main channels.

The Ginnie Mae will be out of the shipyard for this weekend's flounder fishing, says Capt. Bill. He expects very good flounder catches in his "back yard" creeks and channels.

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NEW SUPER HEATED CABIN!

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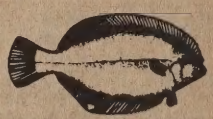
FREEPORT'S LARGEST, FASTEST MOST MODERN ALL STEEL PARTY BOAT WITH 34 YEARS EXPERIENCE AT THE HELM!

FLOUNDER 7 AM DAILY



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LINDENHURST

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UP TO 6 PASS.

Cod, Flounder, Macks, Weaks, Bass, Blues, Tuna, Fluke, Shark

CAPTAIN BILL ADAMS

(212) 845-9166 after 6 P.M.

Steve and Joe on Joe's **Debra** had a 25 lb. cod on Saturday, sailing 150 degrees out of Jones to 100 ft. of water. On Sunday, they went out to 120 ft., 150 degrees again, but this time nailed 22 cod from 20 to 40 lbs. Heavy clam chumming was necessary. The two are members of Tournament Anglers.

Beckmann's Tackle reports fantastic flounder fishing. The fish can be found in most of the same areas as last week but are now more spread out. Catches of 40 to 60 per boat have been taken. The pier in Bay Park is producing flounder up to 1½ lbs. Worms, skimmers and mussels are the baits.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing in the area. Cedarhurst Yacht Club has been the hotspot for flounder from 1 to 1¾ lbs. Worms and mussels are working best in this area. Clam bait is producing nice sized flounder in Broad Channel.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that flounder fishing is doing well at the North and South Channel bridges and the Silver Hole. These fish are averaging 1 lb., and are being taken on worms and mussels. Chumming will increase your catch.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Dorothy B reports Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday all saw nice big fish come over the rail, with the pool fish always going 1½ to 2 lbs. The weekdays were better numbers-wise as they were without the winds and high tide.

Capt. Joey on the **Atomic II** tells of excellent whiting fishing Sunday, fish up to 5 lbs—real jumbos, just 3/4 miles past the BA. Good solid catches. Numbers ran anywhere from 10 to a half bushel of big, baseball bat whiting per man. Friday was very good and Friday's night trip north of Ambrose also produced fish.

Capt. Walter on the **Flamingo III** is mainly flounder fishing now and reports catches were down a bit on the weekend due to the strong winds. Catches should be back to very good by this coming weekend. Fish that are in the bays are starting to move to the inlets, which should give us a good run of the larger fish. Walter has heard of big mackerel catches off Ocean City, Maryland and they should be here within two or three weeks.

Capt. Tom on the **Pilot II** reports Sunday's flounders were a nice size, from ½ to 1 lb., and after this new moon is gone, the action should return to heavy quantity and quality once more. He is fishing the Jamaica Bay areas this past week and is catching the big yellow-edged sea flounders.

Charter boat **Babe** called to tell us that he had out IS 391 Custodians out for flounder and five men put 52 keepers up to 2 lbs., fishing Manhattan Beach, Breezy Point and the Round House on both tides with mussel chum, worm and mussels on the hook.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that local action has been perking up. Great Kills Harbor has been producing flounder from ½ to ¾ lbs., steadily. These fish are being taken at the bulkhead and are hitting worms. The beach side of Great Kills park is producing bigger fish up to 1¼ lbs. on worms. Flurries of bass are being taken every morning off the beach at Great Kills Park. These fish are averaging 3 to 4 lbs., and are taking worms. The first report from Pier 8 shows that bass from 2½ to 3 lbs., are being taken on worms and also some small flounder.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

A. P. White Bait Shop reports that flounder fishing has been slow because of the wind and cold, but fish are being taken in Coecle's Harbor and at the Oyster Shop in East Marion on sand worms. The fish being caught are running up to 2 lbs.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station reports that Bob Mallgren, Curtis Lewis and Steve Wojewodzic fished the Oyster Factory in Greenport and came up with 36 flounders up to 1½ lbs. The fishing in this area has been steadily picking up. Tony LoTerfido and party took 29 flounder up to 2 lbs., fishing Coecle's Harbor. Goose Creek has been producing good catches of flounder from 3/4 to 1 lb. The best baits for the area are mussels, sand worms and clams, with mussel chumming helping with the catch.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that Gasper Teri fished Nassau Point over the weekend and took 6 flounder from 1½ to 2 lbs., on mussels and sand worms. Clif Brown of New York fished the South Race-Buoy 25 and took 16 flounder up to 1¾ lbs., on mussel bait and chum. Plenty of small fish from ½ to ¾ lbs. are being taken in the creeks, especially Broadwater Creek on mussels, worms and mussel chum.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reports lots of flounder being taken at buoy 8 and 9 in the Bay. These fish are averaging 3/4 to 1¼ lbs., with throwbacks mixed in. The fish re are taking sand worms and mussel bait and chumming is important.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports that flounder activity in the area has been slow, but the few fish that have been taken are running from 1½ to 2 lbs. The action at Friendship Beach has been picking up The beaches in this area have been completely changed after this past winter, so a lot of last year's spots for flounder are gone. Roger Cohen and son fished South Haven Park Saturday morning and a 19½ and 10 inch brook trout were their reward.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that flounder averaging 1 lb. and running up to 1¾ are being taken inside the harbor on worms and mussels. Your best bet is

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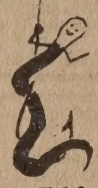
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difficulty when fishing. Quite likely they will cause leader twist as you drift along—swivel or no swivel—but if you trim the meat carefully and evenly so that the strip planes along the bottom with little resistance, you will have no difficulty whatsoever.

Hook sea robin strip once—and once only—through the widest part. Doing so will allow it to flutter enticingly along the bottom. Using fish strips any other way will cause the leader to kink. And needless to say, this method of fishing produces few fluke.

Always give fluke time to munch a bit before attempting to set the hook. When you do this, you'll find your fish has hooked itself and the chance of losing it due to the hook falling out is practically nil.

This is all I can tell you about sea robin bait for now. This article was just to remind you to take advantage of the opportunity that will be available shortly. Take my advice and lay in a good supply of this choice bait. Not only won't you have to worry about securing bait at the height of the season, you'll save a couple of bucks, too.

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BRONZE DART HARPOON BUCKLE. Introducing genuine Harpoon Tip Buckle. Will fit all belts. Bright bronze color, rugged looking. Made in USA. Money back if not satisfied. Only $9.95 plus 75 cents postage & handling. RELIABLE GAFF CO., 4160 Merrick Rd., Massapequa, N.Y. 11758. #16

RAMP AVAILABLE—In and Out within same week, $5 - includes parking; Season Pass—$95. HARBOR MARINE on the Mianus River. 15 minutes from L. I. Sound, Cos Cob, CT. 203-869-7211.

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FREE CATALOG—IMPORTED NORWEGIAN soft vinyl tubing and Bull Gummi-Makk Tube Lures. Surgical Tubing c/o 15 Elm Tree Lane, Pelham, N.Y. 10803.

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Experienced man wanted by marina on Eastern Long Island. Experienced mechanic on inboard engines, etc. Good opportunity for the right man. Call Sue at Long Island Fisherman, (516) 725-4200 for further details and information.

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★ PECONIC FLOUNDERS ★ 2 OPEN BOATS

CAPT. CLARK I & II 8 A.M. EVERY DAY

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Berglin's Marina, Newton Rd.

★ LARGE CHARTERS ALSO AVAIL.
★ SR. CITIZEN RATES DAILY

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Island Fish Net & Supply Co., Inc.
(516) 589-0749
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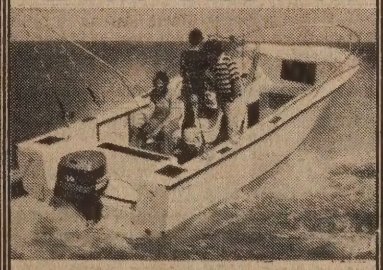
See us at the
EASTERN LONG ISLAND
Boat Show!!!



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QUALITY FISHING MACHINES & FAMILY BOATS, 17'—28'

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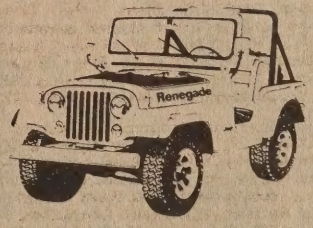

AND ONLY *JEEP!*

LARGE SELECTION OF NEW JEEPS IN STOCK AT ALL TIMES!
LONG ISLAND'S LARGEST STOCK OF USED 4x4's!
EXPERT SERVICE DEPT. FOR ALL 4-WHEEL DRIVE REPAIRS

FORT NECK JEEP
199 County Line Rd.
Amityville, N.Y.
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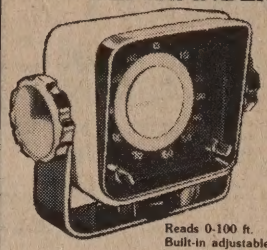
Jeeps are our only business and have been for 20 years!

When your boat deserves the best

UNIMETRICS Pilot 1000 DEPTHFINDER

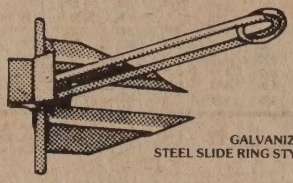


Reads 0-100 ft.
Built-in adjustable depth alarm

MANUFACTURER'S LIST PRICE 174.50

SPECIAL PRICE 85.00

FEDERAL MARINE ANCHORS "THE HOOKER"

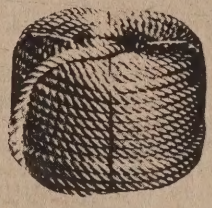


GALVANIZED STEEL SLIDE RING STYLE

AN 5	REG.	12.95	SALE	9.95
AN 7	REG.	15.95	SALE	11.95
AN 10	REG.	20.95	SALE	15.95
AN 15	REG.	28.95	SALE	21.95

NYLON ROPE

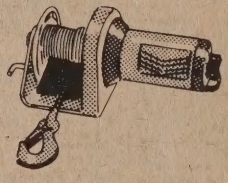
Continuous filament twisted construction
Recommended for dock and anchor lines



3/8"	REG.	13c ft.	SALE	10c ft.
1/2"	REG.	23c ft.	SALE	16c ft.

SUPER WINCH

ELECTRIC WINCH
COMPLETE WITH HARNESS & CABLE



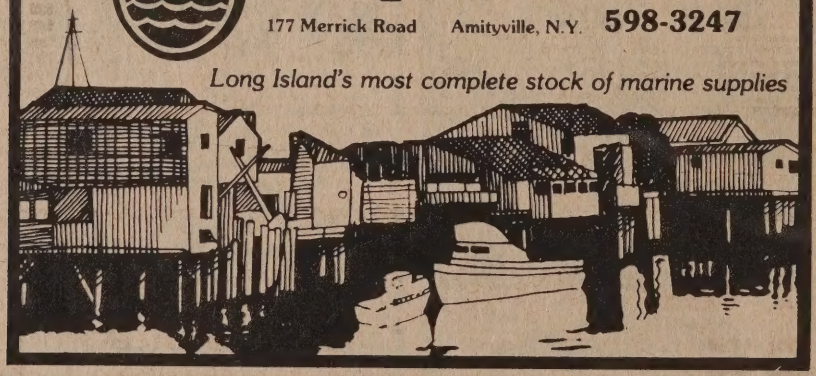
MODEL BT 3000	MFG LIST	169.95
3000 LB CAP	SALE	99.95
MODEL BT 4000	MFG LIST	189.95
4000 LB CAP	SALE	119.95

The Sea Shop

SEE US FOR ELECTRONIC REPAIRS

177 Merrick Road Amityville, N.Y. **598-3247**

Long Island's most complete stock of marine supplies



On April 15th Bliss Marine brings a 146 year tradition of selling "everything marine" to Carle Place ... Be there!

New England's largest supplier of quality marine supplies and accessories is coming to Carle Place. Don't miss your chance to save!

All Stores Open Nights Wed. through Fri. Until 9:30 P.M.

Regular Store Hours 9 to 6, Saturday 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

James BLISS MARINE *Everything Marine Since 1832*

MELVILLE, Town of Huntington
Rte. 110 (604 Broad Hollow Rd.)
1½ miles south of L.I.E.

CARLE PLACE, L.I.
Voice Rd. Off Glen Cove Rd.
(Behind Macy's Furniture)

Other Stores: Darien, CT; Boston, Dedham, Woburn, MA; Warwick, RI

rough up the bottom a little and also chum with mussels to increase your catch.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports lots of flounder being taken in the inlets and bay in the area. These fish are running from ½ to 2½ lbs. Mt. Misery Shoal in the Sound is starting to produce flounder up to 3 lbs. Best baits to use are worms, skimmer clams and mussels and chumming helps to increase your catch.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that the run of big flounder in Smithtown Bay is in full swing. Good catches were reported by many fishermen off Callahan's Beach and the Mansion. Paul Scaduto and Charlie Rosbeck were out on a windy Saturday and caught 28 big flounders, some over 2 lbs. in the Mansion area. All fish were taken on mussel bait with mussels for chum. On Sunday, Paul Albarano and four friends had 25 big flounder between 1 and 2 lbs., off Callahan's Beach using sand worms for bait and chumming with mussels. Youngsters, Chris Kropak and Mark Baroni had 20 nice flounder right from the town dock. Some of the fish were big enough to fillet and sand worms were the bait.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reports that most of the bays and harbors in the area are producing nice sized flounder. On Thurday, Sonny Wilson and Tino Stango took 60 flounder averaging 1½ lbs. off Scudder Beach. Chumming is important and the best bait is sand worms. The bass at the Lilco power plant are starting to spread out and most fish are averaging 3½ to 4 lbs., with some bigger fish being taken. Worms, Rebels, Whiptails, and other artificials are doing the trick.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** tells us Saturday's pol fish ran 1.5 lbs., and Chris Clements of Huntington Station took the first fish of the year aboard the Ever Ready. It was a tie for high hook on Saturday, with John Pelle and Charlie Alfieri each catching 10 fish. Sunday, Jim Trofins took the pool with a 1½ pounder. High hook was 21 fish by Charlie Esposito of Syosset.

Four Winds Tackle reports that on Saturday Lester and Larry Eckert and Joe Hocker fished Duck Island with sand worms and mussel chum and took 125 flounder from ½ to 2 lbs. Ed Bracht took a flounder of 2 lbs. 2 oz. in Northport Bay. Lloyd Harbor and Northport Harbor are producing fish from ½ to 1½ lbs. Flounder are starting to show in the Sound at Callahan's Beach. The bass at Lilco are running from 3 to 8 lbs., and on Thursday night a 20 pounder was taken. Sand worms are doing the job at night and artificials are doing it during the day.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports the flounder are being taken from Lloyd Harbor on mussels, sand worms and mussel chum up to 1½ lbs. There are some smaller fish mixed in. More keepers can be found off Callahan's Beach on the Sound. Rebels and drifting sand worms are taking bass up to 9 lbs., at the Lilco plant. Most of these fish are averaging 3 lbs.

BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle reports flounder

fishermen did well over the weekend fishing Oyster Bay, Harbor, and the Bayville bridge. Good catches of fish from 1 to 1½ lbs. with lots of throwbacks included. Worms and mussels are the baits to use. Action on the Sound has been poor because of the winds.

CITY ISLAND

The open boat **Ebb Tide** reports very good flounder catches off Bayville, Oyster Bay and Huntington Harbor. Depending on skill, catches are 10 to 40 per man, fish from ½ to 2 lbs., on sand worms.

John's Gun and Tackle reports that average catches of 50 to 60 flounder per boat are being taken in Oyster Bay. John Palmieri, Horace and Vernon fished aboard Zac Grossman's Striper Hawk and a nice catch of flounder were taken.

Jack's Bait and Tackle reports that Robin's Neck, Harts Island and Orchard Beach are producing flounder averaging 3/4 lbs. on blood worms and sand worms. Quite a few fish are being taken with lots of throwbacks.

ISLAND PARK

★★★ ISLAND PARK ★★★
OPEN BOAT • SAT. & SUN. 7AM
GINNIE-MAE
★ CHARTERS AVAILABLE ★
Capt. Bill (516) GE-1-5190 or VA-5-1533
(End of Railroad Place, Island Park)

COMMODORE
FLOUNDERS 7AM DAILY *(Except Monday)*
Fast, Comfortable 65 Ft. Open Boat 431-2230
Ft. of Long Beach Bridge, Island Park, L.I.
★ SPECIAL WEEKDAY FARE $9 ★

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR	11:46	11:54	12:09	12:40	12:05	12:41	1:01	1:40	2:25	2:52	2:47	3:20	11:47	—	4/13
FRI	—	12:34	12:59	1:35	12:30	1:29	1:54	2:38	3:10	3:42	3:38	4:10	12:09	12:40	4/14
SAT	12:44	1:29	1:55	2:34	1:37	2:20	2:51	3:37	4:00	4:40	4:31	5:04	1:04	1:39	4/15
SUN	1:39	2:25	2:55	3:32	2:29	3:16	3:48	4:39	5:00	5:47	5:26	5:59	2:03	2:36	4/16
MON	2:39	3:29	3:52	4:27	3:30	4:15	4:44	5:21	6:05	7:10	6:21	6:50	2:59	3:30	4/17
TUE	3:42	4:24	4:48	5:15	4:31	5:08	5:36	6:04	7:19	8:02	7:14	7:40	3:53	4:29	4/18
WED	4:38	5:15	5:35	5:59	5:23	5:53	6:20	6:46	8:16	8:39	8:03	8:25	4:42	5:06	4/19
THUR	5:29	5:58	6:20	6:41	6:11	6:36	7:03	7:25	8:58	9:16	8:49	9:10	5:29	5:48	4/20

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Polunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 38
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beech Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/1	5:43	6:25
4/6	5:35	6:31
4/11	5:27	6:36
4/16	5:19	6:42
4/21	5:11	6:48
4/26	5:03	6:53

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/7	4/15	4/23	4/29

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	9:00	3:15	9:25	3:40
Fri.	9:55	4:05	10:15	4:30
Sat.	10:45	4:55	11:05	5:20
Sun.	11:35	5:40	11:50	6:00
Mon.	—	6:20	12:15	6:45
Tues.	12:30	7:05	1:00	7:25
Wed.	1:15	7:45	1:40	8:10
Thurs.	1:55	8:30	2:25	8:55

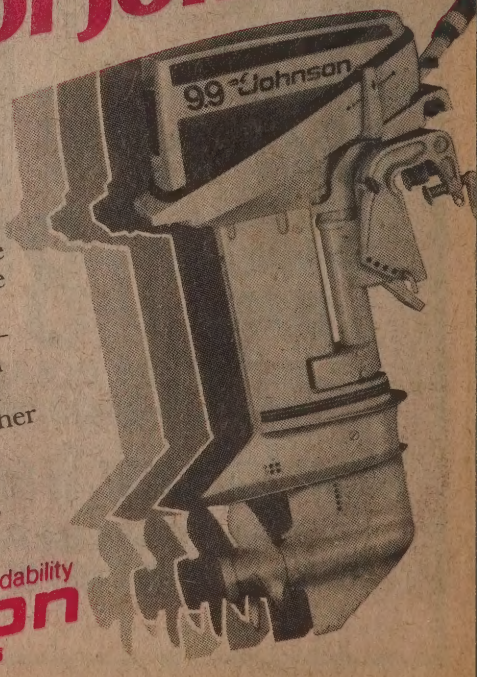
BOAT RESIN & HARDENER
COMPLETE FIBERGLASS TAPE & CLOTH
$8.95 A GALLON
FIBERGLASS MAT & ROVEN WOVING
WEEKDAYS 9-9 PM
SATURDAY 9-1 PM
ALSO BILGE CLEANER, WAXES, AND SLIP-PROOFING MATERIAL
Manufacturer Warehouse Outlet
2739 LONG BEACH RD.
OCEANSIDE - (516) 766-6050

Now's the time for Johnson

When foul weather strikes, you want quick starting to get you going right away. That's the kind of reputation our Sea-Horse® 9.9-hp has earned. Like other fishing Johnsons, our new 9.9 has great fishing features.

Like Magflash® electronic ignition for sure starting. Water-Shield silencing for quiet running. Shallow water drive that lets you chase that lunker into the shallows. A low-profile design to keep it out of the way of your cast. And it's available in automatic-rewind manual start or electric start models.

Add to this the reputation we've built for dependability—from our little 2-hp to the world's most powerful production outboard, our new 235-hp V-6—and it's easy to understand why the world runs more Johnson® outboards than any other brand. See the 9.9 and the other fishing Johnsons at your Johnson dealer, or write for free catalog. Johnson Outboards, Division Outboard Marine Corporation, Sea-Horse Dr., Waukegan, Illinois 60085.



Under Outboard Motors

First in Dependability

Johnson OUTBOARDS